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Authentic Papers

Relating to the

EXPEDITION

AGAINST

CARTHAGENA.

CONTAINING

Original Letters

BETWEEN THE

ADMIRAL *and the* GENERAL

THEIR

COUNCILS of WAR, &c.

ALSO,

LETTERS between the VICE KING
of *Santa Fe*, Governor of *Carthagena*,
and the ADMIRAL.

The SECOND EDITION:

To which is Prefix'd,

A PREFACE and CONTENTS.

L O N D O N:

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[Price Eighteen-pence.]

Authentic Papers

Relating to the

EXPEDITION

AGAINST

CHILAHUAGUA

CONTAINING

Original Letters

FROM

ADmiral DON JUAN PABLO



CONCERNING THE

Letters between the Vice-Roy
of Peru and the Governor of Chilahuagva
and the Admiral

The Second Edition
of the
PUBLISHED BY THE
ADmiral and COMPANY

LONDON

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PREFACE.

IF the Public Service, and even the Honour and Interest of the Nation, did not at all Times require a Parliamentary Inspection into the Conduct of those who are intrusted with Expeditions of great Moment and vast Expence, when they miscarry; the rumour'd Misintelligence between two principal Officers commanding that to Carthage, and the Suggestions of the Friends of both these gallant Men, imputing the Miscarriage of that glorious Design to each, seems to render such an Enquiry a National Piece of Justice, which each of these brave Men may be said to have a Right to expect, and even to insist upon, as a Compensation for the Perils and Hazards he underwent in that Expedition. But one of these Gentlemen particularly seems to lie under greater Difficulties than the other; and for this Reason merits more immediately the Attention of the Public. The Case is this.

Early in the last Year a Pamphlet appear'd, intitled, An Account of the Expedition to Carthage, &c. which, in the Opinion of the unprejudic'd, seem'd to be wrote with too great Partiality to those in the Sea, and too great Prejudice to those in the Land Service. To this an Answer came out this Winter under the Title of A Journal of the Expedition to Carthage, &c. wherein, tho' it appears manifestly on the Side of the Gentlemen of the Army, the Author does not, however, appear quite so acrimoniously prejudic'd as the former. But as many Facts asserted, and many injurious

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Imputations suggested in the first, are denied and retorted in the latter, it was, it seems, thought proper by some Advocate for, or perhaps some Principal among the Gentlemen of the Navy, to publish a Collection of Letters and Orders, Resolutions, &c. relating to that Expedition, under the Title of Original Papers relating to the Expedition to Carthage.

The very Nature of this Collection denotes the Partiality of the Compiler; for it contains only Admiral V——n's Letters and Orders, and some of the Resolutions of Councils of War held by the Sea Officers only; whereas if it had been compiled by an impartial Hand, whose View was to inform the Public, more than to mislead or asperse, it wou'd have contain'd General W——h's Answers to the Admiral, his Letters to others, and the Resolutions of Councils held by the Officers of the Army.

This Omission, therefore, is endeavour'd to be supply'd in this Collection, for the Satisfaction of the Public; being of Papers and Letters, issued and wrote indifferently by the Principal Commanders of the Army and Navy. Some of them, indeed, are the same with the other Collection, which were necessarily inserted in this, the better to clear up and account for the General's Answers to the Admiral, and the Resolutions of the Councils of War ashore. And we will take upon us to assert peremptorily, that no Collection ever was laid before the Public, more genuine or authentic.

We beg Leave to assure the Public, that the Information of Britons, was the chief Motive of publishing this impartial Collection, having no Prejudice

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judice or Partiality to either Party ; but we confess at the same time, that the last Paragraph, pag. 154, of the other Collection, not only raised a generous Indignation in us, as it ought in every unprejudic'd Englishman, but, in our Opinion, seem'd to require a Publication of the calumniated Gentleman's Answers, and the Resolutions ashore. It was a Justice due to what we deem to be injur'd Merit ; it was a Justice due to the Public, who ought never to suffer public Calumny and Aspersions, without positive and substantial Proof, after public Conviction.

That the Reader may judge of the Uprightness of our Intentions, and the Necessity of this impartial Collection, such as this we here present him with, it is thought proper to insert here the Abstract of Admiral V——n's Letter of the 2d of October, 1742, with which the other Collection ends.

Jamaica, Oct. 2, 1742.

I Cannot be insensible how great a Concern the Disappointments on our several Expeditions must have been to our Royal Master : But must humbly beg Leave, at the same Time, to say, in Behalf of *myself* and the Officers and Men that have *serv'd under my Command*, that no Part of the Disappointment is justly to be attributed to his Majesty's *Sea Forces*, nor do I think it was Want of Courage or Inclination to serve his Majesty in his Land Forces ; *but that it principally owes this unhappy Event, to the Command falling into the Hands of Mr. W———h, who has approved himself no ways equal to it, and * * * * ** And though I pretend to very little Experience in military Affairs, by Land, yet it is my Opinion, that if the *sole Command*

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Command had been in me, both on the Carthagena Expedition, and the Cuba one too, that his Majesty's Forces would have made themselves Masters both of Carthagena and St. Jago, and with the Loss of much fewer Men than have died thro' his imprudent Conduct in many Instances.

There is something so ungenerous, so mean, and even so dangerous, in thus aspersing in the gross, the Character of a General and Man of Honour, that, far from thinking Mr. V——n knew of, or wou'd countenance the Insertion of this calumniating Abstract, we look upon it to be entirely spurious, on a Supposition that no Gentleman, so gallant as the Admiral is known to be, wou'd use another ungenerously or ungenteelly. But, tho' our Suspicion of the Genuineness of this Abstract be reasonable, yet whether it be well founded or no, should be deem'd a just and reasonable Plea, for our having inserted all the Admiral's Letters that may be look'd upon as truly Authentic.



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AGAINST

CARTHAGENA.

COPY of a LETTER from Vice
Admiral VERNON to the Duke of NEW-
CASTLE.

Carthagen-Harbour, April 1, 1741.

MY LORD DUKE,

MY last Letter to your Grace, was of the 24th of *February*, from *Irish Bay*; a Duplicate of which, for your Grace, accompanies this.

And on the 25th of *February*, I weigh'd with the Fleet from *Irish Bay*, being in all One Hundred and Twenty-four Sail; the same
B Day

Day I was join'd by Captain *Boscawen* in the *Shoreham*, who had been at *Leogane*, and had din'd with M. *Larnage*, and been on board the *French* Rear Admiral M. *de Rochefeuil* at *Petit Guard*. They said, the Marquis *d'Antin* was sail'd, but did not pretend to know which Way he was gone.

After getting my Fleet together, I made sail with them under an easy Sail, for keeping so large a Fleet together, who were none of the most orderly ; and on *Wednesday, March* the 4th in the Evening, I anchor'd with them in *Playa Grande*, to windward of the Town of *Carthagena*, lying between that and Point *Canoa* ; and to harrafs them, I order'd my small Frigates and Fireships to get in Shore, and lye in a Line, as if I intended a Descent to windward of the Town, which had its Effect in drawing Forces that Way, and setting them at work to intrench themselves.

The same Day I had a Report from my Engineer Captain *Knowles*, of what Observations he had made of the new Works the Enemy had been erecting near the Entrance of their Harbour, for my forming my Disposition of Attack, having dispatch'd him and Capt. *Laws* over before me for that Purpose. And I immediately dispatch'd him away again to Leeward, with Capt. *Laws*, Capt. *Cooper*, and Capt. *Rentone*, to sound all without *Terra Bomba*, and the Entrance into the Harbour, to know certainly how near our Ships could be brought to the Shore, and if we could find Anchorage for our large Fleet.

On the 5th we held a general Council of War for settling the Distribution of Booty, pursuant to his Majesty's Instructions ; and I send your Grace inclosed, a Copy of the said Resolution.

On the 6th I form'd my Plan of Attack on the Forts of St. *Jago* and St. *Philip*, a Fascine Battery

tery lying to the Northward of that ; and another little Battery called *Chamba*, to the Northward of that, all on *Terra Bomba*, without *Bocha Chica Castle*, and necessary for us to be Masters of, for anchoring our Fleet under them without *Terra Bomba*. And I send you likewise inclosed, a Copy of my Instructions and Orders to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, to command the Attack of the said Forts and Batteries ; and Capt. *Knowles*, and my other three Captains, having made me their joint Report on the 8th of *March*, which I send you a Copy of, I immediately summoned a general Council of War, to communicate that, and my Plan of Attack to them ; and send your Grace inclosed a Copy of the Resolution of that Council of War of the 8th.

On *Monday* the 9th, Sir *Chaloner Ogle* shifted his Flag on Board the *Jersey*, and moved forward with his Division, for executing my Orders in the said Attack, and I weigh'd and mov'd after him, with my Division, and all the Transports, leaving Mr. *Lestock* with his Division at Anchor behind us ; and I had that Morning embark'd all the Grenadiers in the Fireships in Shore, as if I was purposing a Landing there that Morning, but order'd them to follow me in time, to be ready for a Landing to Leeward that Evening. The small Fort of *Chamba* fired a few Guns, but was soon deserted, as soon as the Ship posted there could take her Station, and begin to fire at the Fascine Battery erected between that and the Forts of *St. Jago* and *St. Philip*, they had not yet had Time for getting any Guns mounted there, so there was no Fire from thence ; and our three Eighty Gun Ships, the *Norfolk*, *Russel*, and *Shrewsbury*, being judiciously anchor'd very close under those two Castles, made

so warm a Fire, that in less than an Hour they shatter'd them sufficiently, and drove every Soul out of them, so as to enable us that same Evening to make good a Descent with the Grenadiers under the Walls of those Castles, and to take Possession of both of them, without having so much as a single Musket-Shot fir'd at them; and the same Evening got our Bomb-ketches placed, and begun to play on *Bocha Chica* Castle; but our Southermost Ship, the *Shrewsbury*, having had her Cable cut by the Enemy's Shot, before she could let go another Anchor, fell to Leeward open with *Bocha Chica* Castle, and the Fire from some of their Ships, and a Fascine Battery to Leeward; but however, Capt. *Townsend*, who commanded her, chose to maintain his Post till Night, like a brave gallant Officer, rather than retire in View of the Enemy, by which his Masts, Hull, and Rigging, have been greatly shatter'd and render'd unserviceable, and his Loss about sixty Men killed and wounded, about a Third of the former; but he maintain'd a very good Fire from his Ship till Night, when he had Orders to retire: The other two Ships had three killed and nine wounded each, and all our Ships made a very good regular Fire, and Officers and Men discharged their Duty with great Chearfulness.

By Noon the next Day, the 10th, we got all the rest of the Troops landed, without the least Molestation from the Enemy; and then all our Boats, and great Numbers of our Seamen, were kept constantly employ'd in landing the Artillery with all possible Diligence, and great Fatigue to our Officers and Men, who by reason of the great Swell, were forced to work like Water-Rats on the Rafts made for floating them ashore, and

and went through all the Fatigue, both of getting them ashore, and landing them and getting them mounted afterwards: And our Train came out so ill furnished, that Mr. *Wentworth* was obliged to have Recourse for our Seamen to ply their Guns on their Battery too, when they were mounted.

The Engineers Progress, and Soldiers Laziness, giving us Uneasiness, for fear of fatal Consequences from Delays, engaged Sir *Chaloner* and me to join in a Letter of the 11th, which I likewise send your Grace inclosed a Copy of, and on the 12th got the *Ludlow-Castle* in to play on the Castle, from a Mortar she had on board, and on the 13th they began to play on the Castle from our Bomb Battery on Shore; and by *Sunday* the 15th at Noon, we made an End of landing all their Artillery and Ordnance Stores they brought out, and of twelve Twenty-four Pounders lent out of our Ships at the General's Request.

And Complaint being made by Mr. *Wentworth*, of their being much galled by the Fire from a Fascine Battery on the opposite Side of the Harbour, which we call the *Barradera* Side, and which I had observed, and employed Officers to view it, and was forming a Scheme to attack it, as soon as they had done employing our Boats in landing Things for them: I held a Council of War on it on the 17th, which I send your Grace inclos'd a Copy of, but was put off the Execution of it by its blowing too hard the succeeding Day; but on the 19th at Night, it was executed with wonderful Success and Resolution; the Command of the Boats of each Division being put under the Command of Capt. *Watson*, Capt. *Norris*, and Capt. *Colby*, as Captains to the Commanding Officers of each Division,
commanded

commanded in chief by Capt. *Watson*, my Captain, and the Men to be landed out of the Boats, were under the Command of Capt. *Boscawen*, Capt. *Laws*, and Capt. *Cotes*, commanded in chief by Capt. *Boscawen*: They landed about a Mile to the Leeward of this Fascine Battery, which was of fifteen Twenty-four Pounders, and I had divided them to be Part landed, and Part kept in the Boats, as I thought, either being put into any Disorder, could more easily have been recover'd by the others flanking the Enemy's Fire. At their landing, they fortunately pitched ashore under the Muzzles of a five-gun Battery, they knew nothing of, and recollecting their Security was in their Resolution, jumped boldly into the Battery, and surprized them so as to receive but little Damage, and secured those Cannon; but this gave the Alarm to the other, who had Time to point two of their Cannon on them, which went over their Heads, and did them little Damage, and our Men soon rushing in upon them, thus boldly and resolutely, made themselves Masters of the two Batteries of twenty-four and twenty Pounders, and kept Possession of them 'till they had spiked up all their Guns, tore up their Platforms, and made two glorious Bonfires of the Platforms and Carriages, and brought off six wounded Prisoners, with an inconsiderable Loss of our Side; which Success was a great Relief to our Troops ashore, that were galled by the Shot of that Battery.

Being grown very uneasy, both from the Apprehensions of the Openness of the Road the Fleet lay exposed to, and the foul Ground that was daily cutting our Cables, and the slow Proceedings of their Engineers, I held another Council of

of War on the 21st, which I send your Grace inclosed a Copy of.

It was *Sunday* the 22d at Seven in the Morning, before our Battery on Shore began to play on *Bocha Chica* Castle, and as the Fascine Battery was judiciously placed, the Enemy had been diligently at work, and had got two Guns mounted to play from thence again, and were at work to increase them, upon which I order'd a Ship close under the Shore to take that Battery, which silenced them a little.

And on *Monday* the 23d, Commodore *Lestock* in the *Boyne*, with the *Prince Frederick*, *Hampton-Court*, and *Suffolk*, went in to batter *Bocha Chica* Castle and the Ships, and the *Tilbury* was added, but the *Boyne* falling far to Leeward, open to much of their Fire, was obliged to call her off that Evening, but the rest continued there, and the *Princess Amelia*, that was fallen farther to Leeward than I intended, but lay fair to silence the new mounted Guns on the Fascine Battery, which he did accordingly, which was a great Preservative to the Men playing our Battery ashore, and the Camp, as their Shot went over the Hill into the Camp.

On the 24th, our Ships renew'd their Fire, but the *Prince Frederick* and *Hampton-Court* being much galled by the Shot from their Ships they had warp'd further out for that Purpose, was obliged to call them off; and on this Occasion his Majesty lost a brave gallant Officer in Lord *Aubrey Beauclerk*, who would have been an Honour to his noble Family, and his Country, being a calm, sedate Officer, as well as a resolute one. And about Noon this Day, I sent all our Boats again to the Attack of the Fascine Battery, the Men to be landed under the Command
of

of Capt. *Watson*, Capt. *Cotes*, and Capt. *Dennis*, and those remaining in the Boats, under the Command of Capt. *Cleland* and Capt. *Broderick* : They appearing to have mounted six Guns, which the General complain'd galled them much, and having Day-light for it now, their Men did not dare stand the Assault ; and having Time and Day-light for it, our Men destroy'd the Guns they had brought thither, broke up all their Platforms entirely, and set every thing on fire, and drew some of our Boats over a Neck of Land, and boarded and burnt a Sloop that lay there to supply that Battery with Ammunition and what they wanted ; and at Night we drew off the *Suffolk* and *Tilbury*, every thing appearing to us fit for an Assault ; and your Grace has likewise inclosed Copies of our joint Letters to the General of the 23d, 24th, and 25th.

And the General coming off to give me an Account of his Intentions to assault the Breach the said 25th an Hour before Night, I immediately made the Signal for my Boats again, and sent them in for making a favourable Diversion for them, under the Chief Command of my Engineer, Capt. *Knowles*, as we sent some Cohorn Mortars, and Pateraroes, that we had a Prospect of using against *St. Joseph's* Fort, that we thought to throw some Shells into ; and if we found it fordable, to storm in the Night ; and he had my Captain, Capt. *Cotes*, and the others with him. They got to the Fascine Battery, and landed, and drew up their Men before the Time of our Forces marching to the Attack of *Bocha Chica* Castle, which must have contributed to throw the Enemy into some Confusion : And our Grenadiers, at the Time the General had appointed, moved in very good Order to the Assault

fault, and mounted the Breach, and had got over,
 a Breast-work they had made within the Breach
 without their seeming to be perceived by the E-
 nemy, and were Masters of *Bocha Chica* Castle
 without having a Musket Shot fired at them,
 though it was an Hour before Night, and had
 only one Man wounded by a Shot from *St. Jo-
 seph's* Castle in their way. Our Men, soon after
 its being dark, attempted fording to *St. Joseph's*,
 being got through a Morass just upon the Back
 of it, but found that impracticable, some slip-
 ping into Holes up to their Necks, so they re-
 turn'd to their Boats, and the Enemy for some
 Time kept firing Partridge on them through the
 Bushes, but only wounded one Man; and find-
 ing the Consternation the Enemy were in, from
 having begun to set fire to one of their Ships, re-
 solved to row in their Boats close under the Lee-
 Shore, and storm *St. Joseph's* Fort from their
 Boats, which they did accordingly, and found
 only three drunken *Spaniards* there: Flushed with
 this Success, and finding they were upon sinking
 the other Ships, they rowed up to the Ships, as
 they were now got within the Boom, and board-
 ed *Don Blas's* own Ship, where they took Pri-
 soners the Captain of the Ship, the Captain of the
 Marines, an Ensign, and 60 Men, who not having
 had Boats to make their Escape in, had not sunk
 the Ship, till they could have made their own
 Escape; and then our People went and cut the
 Boom to make all clear for us the next Day,
 leaving Officers and Men on board the *Gal-
 licia*, (*Don Blas's* own Ship, where they found
 both Flag and Colours flying) and a Garrison in
St. Joseph's Fort. The wonderful Success of
 this Evening and Night are so astonishing, that
 one can't but cry out with the Psalmist, *It is the*

Lord's doing, and seems marvellous in our Eyes.
And God make us truly thankful for it.

And now we are in full Possession, I think, I may say, it was as narrow a Channel, as difficult of Access, and as good a Disposition made to defend it, as I can apprehend to be any where in the World; for they had above two hundred Pieces of Cannon from Forts, Batteries and Ships, that lay all to play upon any thing coming in, within the Compass of a Mile round. But though the *Bully Don* must be said very well to know how to make a Disposition, he is very far from convincing me, he knows how to make the best Defence with it afterwards.

On *Thursday* the 26th, I hasten'd into the Harbour, to make proper Dispositions, and give all necessary Orders; but tho' I had nothing to do but to get in, I found it Matter of great Difficulty, especially as they had sunk the *San Carlos* and *Africa* in the best of the Channel; and the *St. Philipe*, that they had burnt and blown up, was yet burning on the Lee-Shore, so that I was above three Hours warping through, after I anchor'd in the Narrows, before I could get to sail up the Harbour, which I did about two Leagues the same Evening; for seeing about me, and making my Dispositions to post my Ships as they should get through. And our getting Possession now, was the more providential, as we have had very blowing Weather ever since: The same Evening there got only in with me the *Burford* and *Orford*, of my Division.

And the next Day, the 27th, I gave Orders to Capt. *Griffin*, with Lord *Augustus* in the *Orford* under his Orders, to advance as fast as the Wind would let them, for posting themselves across the Harbour, as near as they could, just without Gun-shot

shot of *Castillo Grande*, for cutting them off of all Communication by Water, as soon as we could, which they could move but slowly in, as the Wind has blown very fresh ever since our being here, and right down the Harbour. On *Friday* the *Worcester* got up to me, and I sent her to anchor close to a Wharf, where there was a good Crane, and a Spring of Water I thought necessary to secure for the Service of the Fleet. And the *Weymouth*, with my Engineer, Capt. *Knowles*, getting in the same Afternoon, I sent him with the Cruizer Sloop under his Command, to destroy their Batteries at *Passo Cavallos*, and to seize what Sinu-Hulks were there, which he executed the 28th, having destroy'd there two Batteries of eight Guns on each Side the Entrance into *Passo Cavallos*, and render'd these Guns unserviceable, by spiking them up and knocking off their Trunnions, and has brought out four large Sinu-Hulks, that may be very useful to us for our second Descent, and the Watering our Ships.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle* got in with his Ship the 27th at Night, and worked up above me the 28th, between me and my two advanc'd Guards, but there is only got up to him yet, of his Division, the *Rippon*, *Jersey*, and the *Experiment*, Capt. *Rentone*: And I send your Grace inclosed, Copies of the present Orders Sir *Chaloner* and Mr. *Lestock* have to act under.

The *Torbay*, and two Fireships of my Division, have got through, and got up to me the 30th in the Morning; as did the Evening of the same Day, the *Chichester*, of my Division; and the two Bomb-ketches, for the blowing Weather these last two Days having forced all the small Ships to take Shelter in the Mouth of the Harbour, they lay there as thick as the Ships below

Bridge in the River *Thames*, and have so choaked up the Mouth of the Harbour, as to have prevented us from making more Dispatch, from having anchor'd foul of one another; but the Boats from my Ships within have been picking up their Boats, which will be of Service to us, who have lost and destroy'd several in the great Seas we have had to deal with, and will help to straighten our Enemies.

We held a General Council of War the 30th, and I send your Grace inclos'd a Copy of our Resolutions taken in it; and no Time shall be lost on my Part, to push every thing with Diligence and Resolution, for our Royal Master's Honour and Service, and have many employ'd in reconnoitring how to do it most effectually, and hope to get our Bomb-ketches placed to play on *Castillo Grande*, by the 31st at Night, or the 1st of *April*.

The Enemy are acting in a sort of Despondency, having sunk all their Galleons and other Ships a-cro's the Mouth of the upper Part of their Harbour, above *Castillo Grande*, except the *Conquistador* and *Dragon*, the two remaining Men of War of the King of *Spain's*, and a Ship wearing *French* Colours, in order entirely to choak up the Channel into that Harbour, which looks as if they did not expect to maintain it, since they are taking such Measures entirely to destroy their Harbour.

As I thought the Knowledge of our Proceedings so far, might be of great Importance to our Royal Master's Service, I order'd the *Spence*, Capt. *Laws*, to get himself ready for his homeward-bound Voyage with all possible Expedition, which, he having sent me Word, he should be ready for by to morrow Night, I am hurrying to have my Dispatches ready against that Time, which

which the many Affairs I have hourly to give Orders in, hardly allow me Leisure for ; and your Grace must be so good as to excuse all Incorrectness in my manner of doing it, having, I assure you, no Time unemploy'd for securing the Success of this Expedition.

Captain *Wakeman*, in the *Cruizer* Sloop, has brought me hither your Grace's Letter of the 4th of *December*, which could not but give me a great Pleasure in your acquainting me with his Majesty's gracious Favour, in a constant Approbation of my Conduct ; an Honour I shall be ever studious to preserve, by the strictest Regard for his Majesty's Honour and Service, in the great Trust he has reposed in me, having no greater Ambition than to approve myself his faithful Subject and Servant.

I was sorry to find Capt. *Wakeman* had met such bad Weather on the Northern Continent, as to disappoint him of delivering your Grace's Letters there ; and more so, that he should have brought them here ; but I will send them for *Jamaica* in a Day or two, to be forwarded from thence, concluding Duplicates must have been got there long before now.

I hope it will not be long before we shall hear of the safe Arrival of the Convoy from *England* with the Provisions, as we may otherwise be greatly distress'd, as we are in Want of them.

As General *Wentworth* has had early Advice of this Sloop's Sailing, your Grace will learn from him all Particulars of their Proceedings, to which I must beg Leave to refer you.

Since my last, Capt. *Douglas* has taken two *Spanish* Prizes coming from *St. Jago* for this Port. Capt. *John Trevor*, whom I had cruising

ing off *Santa Martha*, has taken a Register Ship and an *Aviso*, both from *Cadiz*, bound to this Port, with Letters as late as the 2d of *February*, their *Stile*. And Capt. *Mostyn* in the *Deptford*, cruizing to Leeward of this Port, has taken a small *Spanish* Ship from *Ferrol*, and a Snow from *Ponto Bello*, who had been to carry a Battalion from hence thither; so that we have watch'd them pretty closely every way.

I will send one of my Tender-Sloops in a Day or two for *Jamaica*, and if she does not get there Time enough to put your Grace's Packets for the Governors of the *Northern* Colonies on board the *Astrea*, she shall have Orders to proceed with them to *New York*.

On the 30th in the Evening, I order'd my Engineer Capt. *Knowles*, up in his Ship, to reconnoitre for me, he getting up that Night a little above my advanc'd Guards, observed they were very busy in moving about with thirteen Launches, which made them keep a good Guard with their Boats that Night, but the next Morning he discover'd that they had sunk their two remaining Men of War, the *Conquistador* and *Dragon*, both of sixty Guns, and were removing Things out of *Castillo Grande*. On which he immediately acquainted Sir *Chaloner Ogle* of it, who lay between me and my advanc'd Guards, the *Burford* and *Orford*, Capt. *Knowles* to advance with his Ship and fire on the Castle, to see if they wou'd return it, which he observing they did not, immediately made the Signal for the Boats mann'd and arm'd, who row'd up directly to the Castle, and took Possession of it without Opposition; and I have appointed Capt. *Knowles* Governor, as I know no one is better qualified for making his Remarks from it, how we may take our Advantages,

vantages, to push on successfully the Progress of his Majesty's Arms ; and I hope soon to get in my Bomb-ketches to play upon the Town ; and we shall now be able to land the Forces within a League of the Town, when they get up to us, which could not have been done in less than three Leagues, without being Masters of *Castillo Grande* ; so that it is a most advantageous Acquisition to shorten the Proceedings of our Army, who will, I hope, be encouraged to advance the faster for it. I am under Sail to anchor close to the Castle myself, and give proper Directions for pushing Things on as fast as possible, as I dread the approaching Rains.

This first Day of *April* in the Morning, I am got to an Anchor in my own Ship, close by *Castillo Grande*, and am getting some of my Ships at work, to try to get the Masts out of the sunken Ships, to make a Channel over those sunk in deepest Water, to get my Ships in, to secure a safe Descent to the Army, under the Fire of our Guns, as near the Town as possible, and hope to have done before they will come up to us, there being but two Transports yet come up, which got up last Night ; and I hope to get my Bomb-ketches in before Night, and to keep them upon the Watch all Night.

I have sent the two *Spanish* Captains home with Capt. *Laws*, believing your Grace might be desirous to have their Examinations at Home. Capt. *Jordan*, the Captain of the Ship, is a *Frenchman*, but has been long in the *Spanish* Service.

I am, &c.

E. Vernon.

C O P Y of a Resolution of a Council of War, settling the Distribution of Booty taken at Land during the present Expedition; held on Board the Princess Carolina, March 5, 1740-1,

W Hereas it appears by my Lords Justices additional Instructions of the 22d of July, 1740, to be his Majesty's Royal Pleasure, that for preserving that Harmony and good Understanding between his Majesty's Sea and Land Forces, which is so necessary for the carrying on his Majestys Service with Success, that it should be settled by a Council of War, to consist of Sea and Land Officers, in what Manner and Proportion, Booty taken from the Enemy at Land, during the present Expedition, shall be distributed between his Majesty's Sea and Land Forces, in all Cases where the said Sea and Land Forces shall be jointly engaged, in the attacking and taking of any Place, Fort, or Settlement, from the Enemy.

And a Paper accompanying the said Instructions, and said to have been prepared in Conformity to the two preceding Settlements in 1694 and 1702, being laid before your Council of War.

Your Council of War, to shew their entire Disposition to conform to our Royal Master's Inclinations, by studying to preserve that Harmony recommended to us, have taken the said Paper into Consideration, and to avoid the Risk of disagreeing Opinions in preparing a new one, resolve to make that the Plan of their present Regulation.

And

And your Commanding Officers in Chief by Sea and Land, desirous to preserve that good Harmony recommended to us by his Majesty, and pleas'd with an Occasion of contributing to it, by giving up, of their own Motive and free Will, for procuring so desir'able an End, a fifth Part of what was by the said Distribution, allotted to them, in order to divide the whole into Sixteenths, and to have the said Sixteenths distributed, where the Council of War should think them most wanted.

Your said Council of War accordingly proceeded to the Consideration of it, and do agree that the whole Amount of such Booty shall be divided into sixteen equal Parts, or Portions.

Whereof four Sixteenths shall be given to the Commanders in Chief of the Sea and Land Forces, to be equally divided between them.

To the other Admiral, General Officers, and Commodore, to be equally divided amongst them, in proportion to their respective Salaries, two Sixteenths.

To the several Colonels, Captains of Ships of the Line of Battle, Lieutenant Colonels, Captains of Ships of War giving Rank, Quarter-Master General, Adjutant General, Commissary General, Paymaster General of the Land Forces, Judge Advocate, Secretaries to the Admiral and General, Provost Marshal, Surgeons and Chaplains General by Sea and Land, Majors of Regiments and of Brigades, Masters and Commanders of Fireships, Bomb-ketches, Sloops and other Ships of War not giving Rank, Aid du Camps upon the Establishment, Captains at Land, Lieutenants at Sea, Masters of Ships giving Rank, Lieutenants at Land, Gunners, Purfers, Boatswains, Carpenters, Ensigns, Adjutants,

rants, Quarter-Masters of Regiments, Chaplains and Surgeons of Ships and Regiments, Masters, Mates, Directors of the Hospital, and their Surgeons four Sixteenths, to be divided amongst them in proportion to their respective Salaries.

To the Non-Commission and Warrant Officers at Sea and Land, such as Midshipmen, Carpenters Mates, Boatswains Mates, Gunners Mates, Masters at Arms, Serjeants, Bombardiers, Gunners of the Train, Yeomen of the Sheets, Cockswains, Quarter-Masters, Quarter-Masters Mates, Surgeons Mates, Yeomen of the Powder-Room, and Corporals, two Sixteenths, to be equally divided amongst them.

To the Cooks of Ships, and all others enumerated with them, in the Proclamation for the Distribution of Prizes at Sea, Seamen and Soldiers, Drummers, Marshals Men, Pioneers, or Persons working to clear Grounds, and assist at Sieges, four Sixteenths, to be equally divided amongst them.

But no Officer to be allowed to share in two Capacities ; and whenever any Person shall hold two different Employments, he shall chuse in which of them he will take his Dividend. But it is not hereby intended, to exclude Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, and Majors, from receiving their Shares as Captains, as well as Field Officers ; and Sea Captains Pay to be accounted upon King *William's* Establishment.

And that every Officer under the Rank of a Commission, or Warrant Officer, Seaman, or Soldier, that shall happen to be wounded in any Siege, or Action, whose Booty shall be taken, shall have a double Share in Proportion to his Rank, in Consideration of his Wounds.

Given

Given under our Hands, on Board his Majesty's Ship the *Princess Carolina*, at Anchor off of *Carthagena*, the 5th Day of *March*, 1740.

E. Vernon.

Thomas Wentworth.

C. Ogle.

J. Guise.

Richard Lestock.

Wm. Blakeney.

E. Wolfe.

J. Hemington.

C O P Y of *Instructions and Orders* from *Vice-Admiral Vernon* to *Sir Chaloner Ogle*, to command the *Attack of the Forts St. Philip and St. Jago* with his *Division*. Dated on Board the *Princess Carolina*, at *Anchor off of Carthagena*, the 6th of *March*, 1740-41.

W Hereas it has been determin'd in a Council of War, vigorously to attack *Carthagena* both by Sea and Land; a Resolution which the Inclemency of the Country manifests the Prudence of, as our Forces are decreasing daily by Sickness, so that slow Measures are certain Ruin.

And as the first Point judg'd material to secure the Success of the Enterprize, is to render ourselves Masters of *Bocha Chica* Castle, and all the Fortresses and Batteries erected for defending the Entrance of the Harbour, for the more closely blocking up the Town, and cutting it off from

from all Communication by Sea, either within or without the Harbour, and above all for securing our Transports a safe Harbour to ride in, who will lay too much exposed without.

And as the most probable, as well as most proper Place to secure a Descent in, is in the *Little Bay*, under the Command of the two Forts *St. Philip* and *St. Jago*, where, I am inform'd Ships can come safely to an Anchor in good Ground, and within less than Musket-shot of the Shore, and may lay to batter and command those two Forts, without having Occasion to open the Castle of *Bocha Chica*, in which Case I apprehend the Fire of three Eighty Gun Ships, if there be room for them to anchor there a-head of each other, will be amply sufficient for demolishing the said Fort, commanding all the said Bay, and securing there a safe Landing of the Troops, under the Fire of their Guns; the Point, I apprehend, of the utmost Importance, for securing the Success of this Expedition, it being, as I apprehend, the very Spot on which *M. Ponti* made his Descent, when he took *Carthagena*, and began with taking *Bocha Chica*, and as to the Northward of the said two Forts on *Terra Bomba* the Enemy are said lately to have erected a considerable Fascine Battery of eighteen Pounders, which there is said to be deep Water enough to approach within Musket-Shot of, but that the anchoring Ground so near in, is foul and stony, and would cut the Cables, and to anchor in clean Ground would hardly be within point blank Cannon Shot; you must in employing the rest of your Ships in silencing that Battery, and one of little Consequence to the Northward of that called *Chamba*, govern yourself in it as you shall judge most prudent, either by anchoring them, if you can find clean Ground
near

near enough, or by ranging close to them one after another, and then standing off, and plying to Windward, to renew the Fire in the same Manner of them, for clearing all that Coast from the Enemies, as it is said there is likewise a good little Bay for a Descent under *Chamba* Battery, and it might divide the Enemy's Force the better, to make a Descent at both Places at once, and expose their Troops the more to the Fire of our Ships.

Having thus informed and instructed you according to the best Intelligence I have received, and furnished you with Pilots of the best Abilities and Experience I could procure, I rely on your Judgment and Resolution for the due Execution of my Orders.

And you are hereby required and directed to proceed with your whole Division of Ships of the Line of Battle, for demolishing the said Forts and Batteries, and securing all the Country between them, so as to secure a Descent for the Forces, in the most convenient Parts for it, between the said Fort of *St. Philip's* and *Chamba* Battery.

And the better to secure the Success of your Enterprize, you are to give Orders in Writing to every respective Captain of your Division, not to suffer any imprudent and hasty firing from their Ships, which only serves to embolden an Enemy, instead of discouraging them; but to give strict Orders not to suffer any Gun to be fired from any of his Decks, till the respective Officers appointed to command on each respective Battery has seen to the pointing each Gun he is appointed to have the Inspection over, and directed the firing of it, that all possible Care may be used, to secure the Success of this first Attempt,

tempt, on which the Success of the Whole so much depends ; and they are to endeavour to persuade and convince their Men, of the Folly and Imprudence of hasty firing, which serves only to encourage the Enemies, and expose themselves : And you are likewise, in your Orders in Writing, to assign to each particular Captain the Post he is to take, and the Orders he is to execute, that no one may have the least Pretence to plead Ignorance of your Orders, which you are to enjoin the due Execution of, at the utmost Peril.

And you are to order your respective Captains, to acquaint their respective Ships Companies, that the Whole of all Booty to be made upon the Enemies at Land, is graciously granted by his Majesty, to be distributed amongst his Sea and Land Forces, as shall be agreed on by a Council of War of Sea and Land Officers, which have accordingly met and regulated the Distribution thereof, and have allotted a double Share to any Non-Commission or Warrant Officer, and private Man, that may happen to be wounded in the Service ; and to assure of a further Reward from me, out of my Share, all who shall eminently distinguish themselves by any extraordinary Actions of Prudence and Resolution, besides a secured Advancement proportionable to their Zeal and Resolution, exerted on so signal an Occasion, for the Honour of the Crown and future Prosperity of our Country.

And you will have a Report from Capt. Knowles, and the other Captains appointed for Viewing, Sounding, and making all necessary Observations, for your further Information and facilitating the Success of the said Attack.

And you may remove your Flag on board
any

any Ship of your Division, as you may judge most expedient for your more carefully directing and inspecting the due Execution of the whole Attack, which you are carefully and diligently to see to the due Execution of, and give all such additional Orders in, as you shall find to be necessary, from the Motions and Disposition of the Enemy, and other Events that may arise in the vigorous Execution of these Orders: For all and every Part of which, this shall be your sufficient Warrant. Given under my Hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Princess Carolina*, at Anchor off of *Cartagena*, this 6th of March, 1740.

E. Vernon.

To Sir Chaloner Ogle, Rear Admiral of the Blue Squadron of his Majesty's Fleet. By Command of the Admiral.

Wm. Pearse.

OBSERVATIONS made on the Enemies Situation and Works at Bocha Chica, and the Nature of the Soundings, for discovering how near Ships may come to Anchor, to batter the Forts and Castles, and anchor the Transports safe for landing the Troops, Friday, March 7th, 1740.

AT Noon anchored with his Majesty's Ships *Weymouth*, *Dunkirk*, *Experiment*, and *Spencer* Sloop, about two Miles and an half Northward of the Battery of *Chamba*, it being S. E. half E. the Battery of *St. Philip* S. S. E. half E. *Mother la Pope* N. E. and *Bocha Grande*

Grande N. E. half N. in 30 Fathoms Water, fine muddy Ground, made the exactest Observations with our Glasses and Telescopes, all along the Shore, from *Bocha Grande* to the Battery of *St. Philip*, and could discover no other than a small Fascine Battery of six Ambraſures : And at Twelve o'Clock at Night, sent the Boats along Shore, founding from a-breast of their Ships down to the Battery of *St. Jago*, within a Cable's Length of the Shore, each Boat keeping a Cable's Length from the innermost, towards the Offing ; they returned about Four o'Clock in the Morning, with the annexed Accounts.

And after all our Remarks, and on mature Consideration, we give it as our firm Opinion, that the whole Fleet of Men of War and Transports may anchor with Safety off of *Terra Bomba*, from a little to the Northward of *Chamba* Battery, down along Shore to the Batteries of *St. Philip* and *St. Jago*, in what Depth of Water they please, from 30 to 5 Fathoms Water, and be in no Danger of any thing from the Shore, but the Enemies Shot, and that only from the Batteries of *St. Jago*, *St. Philip*, *Chamba*, and the Fascine Battery, all which may be silenced very easily, and the Troops landed in the small Bay between *Chamba* and the Fascine Battery, at almost any Time in the Day, unless the Breezes are very violent indeed ; for we found less Sea down here, in proportion to the Wind, than there is in *Punta Canoe* Bay : And it is remarked, that the Breezes near Shore, and to Leeward, are not so strong as in the Offing, and to Windward.

Given under our Hands this 5th March, 1740.

Charles Knowles.

J. Cooper.

Ja. Rentone.

Wm. Laws.

COPY

C O P Y of a Resolution of a Council of War, held on Board the Princess Carolina, March 8, 1740.

At a Council of War held on Board his Majesty's Ship the Princess Carolina, the eighth Day of March, 1740.

A Report being read to the Council of War, from the four Captains appointed to view the Ports and Situation of the Enemy, and to make the necessary Remarks on the Sounding for approaching them, and the General Officers themselves having been to view the said Works, and propos'd Place for a Descent.

And having likewise had read to them the General Orders prepared for Sir Chalonier Ogle, for commanding the Attack with his Division.

It was the unanimous Opinion of the Council, that no Time should be lost in carrying on the said Attack, and that it ought to be vigorously entered upon To-morrow, pursuant to the Resolution of the Council of War of the 23d of February last, for Attacking Carthagena vigorously by Sea and Land; and are of Opinion, that, to the best of their Judgment, Sir Chalonier Ogle's Orders are well conceiv'd for securing the said Descent.

Given under our Hands on Board his Majesty's Ship the Princess Carolina, at Anchor off of Carthagena, the 8th March, 1740.

E. Vernon.

E. Ogle.

Richd. Lestock.

E. Wolfe.

Tho. Wentworth.

J. Guize.

Wm. Blackeney.

J. Hemington.

E

C O P Y

COPY of a Letter from Vice Admiral
Vernon and Sir Chaloner Ogle, to Major
General Wentworth, March 11th, 1740.

S I R,

WE have been maturely reflecting on the
slow Progress that has been made in ad-
vancing towards the Enemy, since the
happy Success of his Majesty's Arms in making
good a Descent under one of their Forts to co-
ver us, and that without the Loss of one Man ;
which we cannot but look on as a most happy
Providence in favour of his Majesty's Arms.

Which, we apprehend, should be push'd for-
ward with all possible Vigour ; and that nothing
would, in our Opinion, more intimidate the Ene-
my, than for Part of the Troops immediately to
advance, and take Post upon the upper Grounds,
which would cover all our Motions from the
Enemy, and lay theirs open to us ; and for the
whole Body to be advancing after them, as fast
as they can cut their Way through the Woods,
to go cross to the Inside of the Harbour, as we
believe the Fear of having their Troops made
Prisoners in *Bocha Chica* will greatly lessen their
Numbers in the Opposition.

And we think, the Men should be encamped,
and got under Tents as soon as possible, for fear
their lying so basking in the Sun will soon bring
a general Sicknels among them ; which we
thought it our Duty early to advise you of, as
we dread the Consequence ; and your cutting
into the Woods will be a very good Cover for
them, from the violent Heat of the Sun upon
the Sands of the Sea Shore.

And

And cannot but advise, that a Fortnight's Provision be landed immediately for the Service of the Troops, and covered by a Hut from the Weather, to be as a Store in case our Ships should be forced to Sea by bad Weather.

And hope the greatest Care will be taken for preventing a Desertion, by having all pick'd Men for the Out-Guards; and that you will hurry your Engineers in getting their Mortars to play upon *Bocha Chica*, with all possible Expedition.

We thought it our Duty to recommend this to your serious Consideration; and are, with all Affection and Esteem,

Sir, &c.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

COPY of a Resolution of a Council of War, held on Board his Majesty's Ship the *Jersey*, March 17th, 1740.

AT a Council of War held on Board the *Jersey*, to consider what could be done, now our Boats had finish'd the landing all the Cannon and Ammunition for the Army, which they have been constantly employ'd in till now.

Your Council of War had laid before them, the Report made by Capt. *Laws* and Lieut. *Forrest*, who had been sent by Vice Admiral *Vernon's* Orders to survey the Coast, and see where the most convenient Place could be found for making a Descent, for surprizing and destroying the Fascine Battery on the *Barradera*;

and had likewise laid before them the Reports made by Capt. Knowles and Capt. Boscawen, in pursuance of the Orders they had received from Mr. Vernon.

And having taken the same into mature Consideration, do judge it to be of great Importance to attempt and surprize the said *Barradera* Battery; and from the Reports of Capt. Laws and Lieut. Forrest, do judge it will be proper to attempt it at the Place they propose for the landing, within a Mile of the said Battery; and that it might be done in the Night, and with all possible Secrecy.

And for the carrying it on with the more Secrecy, that it ought to be done with the Barges and Pinnaces of the Fleet only; and that twenty-five Men from each Ship of the Line might be embarked for the said Service, besides the Boat's Crew, to be fifteen Seamen and ten Soldiers, the Seamen armed with Swords, Pistols, Cutlasses, and Hand-Granadoes, for rushing in upon them; and the Soldiers with their Firelocks and Bayonets to support them and secure their Retreat.

The Barges to be commanded by the Admiral's and Commodore's Captains in each Division; and the whole three Divisions under Capt. Watson's Orders, as eldest Captain.

And a Post Captain to command the Men to be landed out of each Division, Capt. Laws to command those to be landed out of Mr. Vernon's Division, Capt. Boscawen to command those to be landed out of Sir Chaloner Ogle's Division, and Capt. Cotes those to be landed out of Mr. Lestock's Division.

And that all the Boats shall be at their general Rendezvous, lying upon their Oars, between

tween the *Jersey* and the Shore, by Twelve o'Clock at Night; and the Commanding Officers in each Division only to come on board Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, then to receive from him their last and final Orders for the due Execution of an Attempt, we are unanimously of Opinion, will greatly favour the Army's Proceedings in the Attack of *Bocha Chica* Castle.

Which we judge to be a Service of the greatest Importance we can at present undertake for his Majesty's Service. And Mr. *Vernon* having laid before us a Representation, that was left on board the *Jersey* with us Yesterday, your Council of War took the same into Consideration, which appeared to them to be an Opinion of Capt. *Moor*, reported to them without its appearing they had taken the same into Consideration, whether the same was well founded or not; and the said Fort of *Bocha Chica* being judg'd not capable of containing above five hundred Men, and being neither defended by Out-Works nor Ditches, cannot comprehend, why Capt. *Moor* should make so extravagant a Demand; and have all along express'd our Sentiments of his Backwardness in carrying on his Majesty's Service, by framing many Pretences for fruitless Delays.

There being more done by the Seamen, who have landed all their Cannon and Stores with indefatigable Labour and the utmost Chearfulness, than could have reasonably been expected in so short a Time, and expos'd to so great a Sea, and the Fleet anchor'd out in the Sea, and in foul Ground, and where, we apprehend, no Ship ever anchor'd before.

But as your Council of War know themselves to be daily expos'd to be forc'd out to Sea by the
Weather,

Weather, and have no Certainty where the Auxiliary Squadrons of the *French* may be, which the latest Advice we have received by intercepted Letters say, were to act in Conjunction with the *Spaniards*, cannot in Prudence think it safe to spare the Compliments of the Ships, which must be both the Security of the Fleet and Army too, till we can get them safe within the Harbour of *Cartagena*, when the General is already assur'd he may have the Assistance of all the Men we have. The Council of War having the sincerest Disposition to push the Success of this Expedition with all possible Vigour, which they apprehend, they have given the sincerest Instances of in the well concerted and vigorous Attacks made on the Castles of *St. Jago* and *St. Philip*, that struck the Enemy into such a Pannick, as secured the landing of the Army, without having a single Musket-Shot fired at them.

And immediate Orders determined to be given accordingly.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

Richd. Lestock.

COPY of a Resolution of a Council of War, held on Board the *Weymouth*, March 21st. 1740-1.

THE Council of War taking into serious Consideration the slow Progress made by the Army since their landing, who have had every thing landed for them since *Monday* last, and all done entirely by the Seamen; to leave them more at Liberty for raising their Battery, and

and cutting off the Enemy's Communication by Land, which, to us, is a great Surprize why it has not yet been done, in regard to the great Advantages given the Enemy by it.

And as we cannot but entertain uneasy Apprehensions from such slow Proceedings, and being determin'd to do all in our Power to prevent them, have taken into serious Consideration what could possibly be done by Sea, more than has been done already, for securing the first Attempt, to be Masters of the Entrance into the Harbour.

And though our being on a Lee-Shore and liable to great Hazards, for getting our Ships back, which shall be considerably damaged in their Masts and Rigging, are such forcible Arguments, that we must in some sort act against our Judgments, as Seamen, in exposing his Majesty's Ships to Battering of Castles with them; yet, as the Danger of a Disappointment might be more fatal to our Royal Master's Honour and Interest, we have chosen even to act against our Judgments, as Seamen, for securing the Success of the present Attempt, that appears to us so very doubtful without it.

And having called before us Capt. Knowles, Capt. Rentone, and Lieut. Forrest, on whose Judgments we thought we could best depend, and had all the Information we could likewise gather from the *Spanish* Pilots (Prisoners with us) of what could possibly be attempted by Shipping.

Your Council of War have, as the Necessity of the Case seemed to press it upon them, come to an unanimous Resolution, to do the most that we can judge to be practicable, to secure the Success of this first Attempt, on which the Whole depends.

Which

Which we think may be to attempt to anchor four Ships as close to the Shore as possible, between the Castle of *St. Jago* (we are in Possession of) and the Castle of *Bocha Chica*.

Which four Ships shall be the *Boyne*, *Suffolk*, *Prince Frederick*, and *Hampton-Court*, of Commodore *Lestock's* Division, to be under his particular Orders and Directions, for the posting them accordingly, and carrying on the Attack of *Bocha Chica* Castle.

And that the *Princess Amelia* and the *Norfolk* shall take Post after them, so as to lye most commodious to batter the Castle of *St. Joseph*, and endeavour to destroy that, and direct their Fire from raking Mr. *Lestock's* Ships, which we apprehend they would be otherwise liable to; and these two Ships to follow Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* Orders, of whose Division they are, for the Execution of the said Service.

And as Sir *Chaloner Ogle* lies innermost, with his Division, that he shall order such other Ships of his Division in, to support the others, and employ any Fire he may observe to gall them, that cannot be come at by the Ships first anchor'd, which must be left to his Prudence to direct, as shall appear to be necessary on the Enemy's Motions, when we come to Execution.

And as we hope the Battery from the Shore will be got ready to play this Night at farthest, that all necessary Orders shall be immediately issued in it, to the Ships who are to prepare for Service, to get themselves in Condition on the first Notice; and that if our Battery begins playing To-morrow, our Ships shall move to the said Attack, upon the first of the Sea-Breeze on Monday Morning.

To all which Resolutions we have unanimously agreed, and resolved to have put in Execution accordingly.

Given under our Hands on Board the *Weymouth*, this 21st of March, 1740.

E. Vernon.

G. Ogle.

Richd. Lestock.

COPY of a Letter from E. Vernon, Esq;
Vice Admiral of the Blue, and Commander
in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels
in the West-Indies, and Sir Chaloner
Ogle, Rear Admiral of the Blue, to Major
General Wentworth, Commander in Chief
of his Majesty's Land Forces employed on
the present Expedition. Dated on Board the
Jersey, at Anchor off of Terra Bomba,
the 23^d March, 1740.

S I R,

WE have been endeavouring to give the
Enemy what Diversions we could with
our Ships, but find we cannot get them
up near enough for effectual Service, for the
Narrowness of the Channel; and find our Guns
do not carry so far as those from their Ships, so
that we can do no effectual Service, till you are
Masters of *Bocha Chica* Castle, and we can there-
by come to cut the Boom; which we hope we
have pretty well assisted you in, as we see that
Fort seems to be entirely silenced; and hope you
may be able to make a Lodgment under the
Fort of it To-night, if you do not get into it;
F and

and you will allow, keeping our Ships to be shatter'd, without a Prospect of Service, must be the highest Imprudence, which obliges us to call off Mr. *Lestock*; but we shall leave the Ships that can batter the Castle and the *Barradera* Battery, to do you the best Service in our Power.

And we hope you will push vigorously for getting into *Bacha Chica* Castle, as that will best tend to preserve your Army from Sickness, the most fatal Enemy.

With our best Wishes for Success to his Majesty's Arms under your Conduct, we are, with Friendship and Esteem,

Sir, Yours, &c.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

P. S. We believe it would be of great Service, to have a few Guns kept playing on the Ships.

COPY of another Letter from Vice Admiral Vernon, Sir Chaloner Ogle, and Commodore Lestock, to Major General Wentworth. Dated on Board the Jersey, at Anchor off of Terra Bomba, the 24th of March, 1740.

S I R,

I Have yours of Yesterday, which came to my Hands but this Morning, and Sir Chaloner Ogle, Mr. *Lestock*, and I, have before us; the Ships not being able to get nearer in, is no Fault in our Officers, who have brought their Ships as near as possibly they could, and executed

cuted their Orders with Prudence and Resolution; but we see by Experience, it is only beating our Ships to Pieces, without Hopes of their doing material Service, so that they must be call'd off; but we shall keep them to cover your Men from the Fire of the *Barradera*.

By what we discover of the Works the Enemy are making, we apprehend the longer you delay the Attack, it will be the harder Work for you, as they are said to be very busy on the Inside.

What we apprehend to be most material for securing your Success, is advancing through the Wood, and raising a Battery against the Ships, which must be removed. And the Captain who brings you this, has the *Spanish* Pilot with him, whom if you send with an Engineer, and a proper Guard, will shew you where the Lime-kiln is; but he must go between two Soldiers, and not be trusted to move from them; we are, with much Friendship and Esteem,

Sir, Yours, &c.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

Richard Lestock.

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COPY

COPY of another LETTER from
*Vice-Admiral Vernon, Sir Chaloner Ogle,
 and Commodore Lestock, to Major-General
 Wentworth. Dated on Board the Jersey,
 at Anchor off of Terra Bomba, the 24th
 of March, 1740.*

SIR,

I Have just now received yours of this Morning, and communicated it to Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and Mr. *Lestock*; and a Lieutenant to command the Gunners on the Battery, Sir *Chaloner* will take care to supply you with, as likewise a Relief to the Gunners.

We are glad to hear you have got three Guns to bear on the Shipping, as we have long given you our Opinion would be of most effectual Service.

There appears to us such an easy Ascent from the Western Face, from the great Quantity of Rubble tumbled down, that we cannot doubt but an Attack will even be mountable on this Side before Night, and are therefore of Opinion with your Engineers, that if your Battery be well followed, there cannot fail of being a mountable Breach on the other Side by Night.

And cannot but unanimously give you our Opinion, if it is, that it ought to be storm'd the first of this Night, at both Places, before the Moon rises, not to leave them the Night, to repair all the Damages we have done in the Day.

You will see our Boats are gone on a second Attack on the *Barradera* Battery, and we hope it will please God to prosper our sincere Intentions

tions to forward the Success of this Expedition all in our Power.

This cloudy Weather, we fear, portends Rain; that would be more fatal to you than a Storm.

With our best Wishes for the Success of his Majesty's Arms under your Conduct, we are, with Friendship and Esteem,

Sir, Yours, &c.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

R. Lestock.

C O P Y of another **L E T T E R**, from *Vice-Admiral Vernon, Sir Chaloner Ogle, and Commodore Lestock, to Major-General Wentworth. Dated on Board the Jersey, at Anchor off of Terra Bomba, the 25th of March 1741.*

S I R,

YOUR Letter of yesterday Evening was brought to me, after the setting of the Watch last Night; and I read it with great Concern, from the Diffidence expressed in it for an Assault last Night, but you having had our joint Opinion for it yesterday, which I was glad to find was likewise the Opinion of your Engineers, and to hear that Colonel *Cockran*, one of your Officers, had likewise declar'd he thought it practicable; I therefore judg'd it needed no present Answer, and I chose to communicate it first to my Council of War; for till

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I receiv'd your Letter last Night, I flatter'd myself you would have storm'd the Castle last Night, and made not the least Doubt of your carrying it.

And from what has happened since, as you will see by the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Capt. *Cotterell*, I receiv'd this Morning, it appears to us it was what the Enemy expected.

Diffidence of Troops, we fear, tends only to discourage them; and, in our Opinion, you have Numbers sufficient for pushing the Attack of such a paltry Fort with Vigour, that has no Outworks; and as you have ten fine Twelve-Pounders, that have laid unemploy'd since their landing, cannot but think they shou'd have been erected in Battery against the Ships; and being shewed the Place your Engineers allow'd proper for it, we think the Objection to the Soil of no Consequence, as you can have what empty Casks you desire, and have Sandbags enough to fetch Earth, and *Blacks* to cut your Fascines; and, I apprehend, if your Soldiers had more Labour, they would have better Health, and be fitter for Service; for as there is no large Garrison to expect Sallies from, the Fatigue of mounting more on Guard than is necessary, we conceive, might well have been avoided, and do not esteem it a great Fatigue.

You may see by what has pass'd on the two Attacks our Men have made at your Request, to storm and take the Fascine Battery you complained annoyed you so much, that the Enemy will not stand the native Courage of our Men, when we can come to hands with them; but for battering at a Distance, they will keep you in play as long as you will, and till Sickness destroys your Army; and it is plain they do not want
good

good Engineers, to take Advantage of Delays. The first Time we storm'd that Battery (where you know there was no Breach) was in the Night and might be deem'd a Surprize on them; but yesterday we did it at Noon-day, and gave them all the Notice they could desire, and yet they did not dare to meet the native Courage of our Men.

As we are best acquainted with this intemperate Climate, we think it our Duty, in the Profession of your Friends, as well as our Duty to the Crown, to advise your pursuing more vigorous Measures, as most conducive to the Preservation of your Men's Lives from the ravaging Hand of Sickness, the most fatal Enemy.

We are, with Fidelity and Esteem,

Sir, Yours, &c.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

R. Lestock.

P. S. As you mention'd your being well furnish'd with Scaling Ladders, I shou'd be glad you wou'd give an Order for our being supply'd with Twenty, if you can conveniently spare so many, or what you can spare.

COPY

COPY of an ORDER from Vice-Admiral Vernon to Commodore Lestock.

Carthagea-Harbour, March 27, 1741.

W Hereas I shall be moving up with my own Division and Sir Chaloner Ogle's, to streighten and cut off all Communication with the Town with all possible Expedition, I have judg'd it most for his Majesty's Service, to leave you with your Division at *Bocha Chica*, where you are to take upon you the Command and Direction of every thing necessary to be done there, both for the Defence of the Harbour, embarking the Cannon, refitting our disabled Ships, re-embarking the Forces, and in general every Thing necessary to be done there.

And as it will be greatly for the Preservation of our own Ships, to have the late *Spanish* Admiral Ship the *Galicia* put into Condition to be mov'd up for a Floating against *Castillo Grande*, I would have it one of your first Considerations to furnish her with Anchors and Cables for moving up with her, and Mooring for such a Battery, where it may be found convenient, and to see that her Artillery be put in good Order, and furnish'd with every Thing necessary for Service.

And as some of the Ships of your Squadron as well as the *Shrewsbury* of Sir Chaloner's, who will likewise be left under your Orders, may want to be supplied with low Masts, from their being so shatter'd, as to be unserviceable, you will use your best Endeavours to get out the low Masts from the two *Spanish* Men of War that are sunk, to supply them from them, if they shall be found fit for it, and you will likewise get hawl'd ashore to be examin'd, what other Masts there might be in

in their Booms, that are not yet got on Shore, pursuant to the Orders I gave for it to Capt. *Warren* and Capt. *Laws*; I hope from the one or the other you will find all Necessaries for the Supply of our shatter'd Ships, and for their Rafts; you will likewise be preparing Stages, not only for Shipping our Train of Artillery, which must be done with all possible Speed, but likewise all the Brass Cannon from *Bocha Chica* Castle, as I believe, in our next Council of War, we shall determine entirely to dismantle and destroy that.

But you will take Care from the Ships of your Division, to put in a proper Garrison into the Fort of St. *Joseph*, as it will be necessary to keep that in a Condition for the Defence of the Harbour, as long as we shall continue here, and the Men belonging to my Division and Sir *Chaloner's*, from the Admiral's Ship and the Fort, to be sent on board their respective Ships.

And as you know all Booty is agreed to be divided between his Majesty's Sea and Land Forces in the Manner that has been particularly regulated in a Council of War, you are to give careful Directions to have every thing taken from the Enemy inventory'd, and whatever is from them supplied to the Use of any of his Majesty's Ships, the Crown must be Debtor for, and afterwards the Store-keeper may be ordered to pay a moderate Price for it, and that be brought to the general Account, which makes it necessary the Charge should be particular, and every respective Officer to give a Receipt for all Supplies he has out of the general Booty; and you will take the strictest Care to prevent Embezzlements of all Kinds.

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And

And as Capt. *Laws*, in the *Spence*, has my Orders to prepare himself with all possible Expedition for carrying my Letters to *England*, to inform our Royal Master of the wonderful Success it has pleas'd God so remarkably to favour the Success of his Majesty's Arms in ; you will take care to supply him out of the Prize-stores, from the *Spanish* Admiral's Ship, with all he may stand in Need of, and from our own Ships, which are but scantily provided, with what may be further necessary, that he may be fitted and ready to sail with all possible Expedition, and to order the Contractor's Agent to supply him with the Provisions he may stand in Need of, for his said Voyage.

And you will take care to get our Bomb-ketches as soon as possible, supply'd with Shells and every thing requisite to go on Service, and to have their Tenders likewise supplied with proper Supplies for them ; and pray hasten them to me with all possible Speed, for going on immediate Service.

And you will, upon the General's Application to you, give him all necessary Assistance in the embarking of his Cannon and Troops ; and to take Care to order the Ordnance Store-Ships, to place themselves most commodiously for the speedy Re-imbarkation of the Train of Artillery and Ordnance Stores ; as likewise of the additional Cannon we have supplied them from our Ships, if the General thinks it necessary to have them with him.

And you will take Care to supply, by your Experience, all further Necessaries that you may find to be necessary for the forwarding the Dispatch of every thing may be found to be requisite for his Majesty's Service ; which, I know, I can

can rely on your Judgment ; for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant.

Given under my Hand, on Board his Majesty's Ship the *Princess Carolina*, in *Carthagena* Harbour, this 27th March, 1741.

E. Vernon.

CO P Y of an Order from Vice Admiral Vernon to Sir Chaloner Ogle. Dated on Board the *Princess Carolina*, in *Carthagena* Harbour, March 28, 1741.

W Hereas it is of great Importance to his Majesty's Service, to streighten the Town of *Carthagena*, and cut off their Communication with all Parts of this large Harbour with all possible Expedition ; on which Service Capt. *Griffin*, in the *Burford*, with Lord *Augustus*, in the *Orford*, under his Orders, are far advanced already, and moving forward, in pursuance of my Orders, not to advance so near as to hazard their Masts being shatter'd by *Castillo Grande*.

You are hereby required and directed to proceed yourself, with all possible Expedition, for anchoring first a-stern of them, and ordering all your Division to follow you, but the *Shrewsbury* to be left with Mr. *Lestock*, and the *Litchfield*, I propose to send out to Seaward, till you can have Time for examining the Harbour and forming a Disposition for posting your Ships, entirely to cut them off from all Communication with any Part of this Harbour ; and particularly to cut them

off from having any Communication with *Bocha Grande*, the only Outlet they have, now. I have secured *Passo Cavallos*, for getting small Vessels or Boats into the Sea, which possibly might slip by in the Night-time the Guard Ship I have anchored without; and if you find you can place a Ship close under the North End of *Terra Bomba*, so as to be out of the Fire of *Castillo Grande*, or any Batteries they may have rais'd to the Southward of it; that should be the first thing done, entirely to cut off that Communication; but you are particularly to caution those posted there, not to let their Men go on Shore to the Settlements there, or stay longer than the present Service may require; that being reckon'd an extreme sickly Air, so as no one but their Slaves ever lie there.

And you will likewise, by Capt. *Rentone*, who is best experienc'd, and all other possible Ways, get the best Intelligence you can against our Council of War, to be held on *Monday Morning*, of what may be the properest Place for making our next Descent with the Army, so as to be nearest at hand for cutting them off of all Communication by Land, in order entirely to invest the Town as soon as possible; and will likewise consider where our Bomb-ketches can be most securely placed, nearest the Town, and covered by the *Mangroves* from the Fire of *Castillo Grande*, Orders being given for their being furnish'd with Shells, and hasten'd up with all possible Expedition.

And in all other Things necessary for forwarding the present Service, of investing the Town of *Carthagena*, you are to do and execute every thing your well approved Experience and known Zeal for his Majesty's Service, shall suggest to you,

you, from Time to Time reporting to me your Observations and Proceedings, for which this shall be your Warrant.

Given under my Hand on Board his Majesty's Ship the *Princess Carolina*, in *Carthagena Harbour*, this 28th of *March*, 1741.

E. Vernon.

To *Sir Chaloner Ogle*, Rear Admiral of the *Blue Squadron* of his Majesty's Fleet.

By Command of the Admiral.

Wm. Pearce.

C O P Y of a Resolution of a Council of War, held on Board the *Princess Carolina*. *Carthagena Harbour*, *March 30th*, 1741.

YOUR Majesty's Forces being in full Possession of all the Castles, Forts, and Batteries, for defending the Entrance into the Harbour of *Carthagena*, your Council of War took into Consideration what would be next adviseable for them to proceed in.

And as the Communication by Sea to *Carthagena*, by the Men of War being advanc'd so near as within Gun-Shot of *Castillo Grande*, is now effectually cut off, it was adjudged proper that all possible Expedition should be used in embarking the Forces and Artillery ; and that the Transports, as fast as they are embarked, should be moving off to the next general Rendezvous off the *Bocandina*, between the Shore and the *Burford*, in order to make a Descent at the most convenient

venient Place for their landing, to cut off the Communication of the Town of the Land Side, by running a Line from the Lake at the Back of the *Sopa*, to the Bay, which is said to be about a Quarter of a Mile; and that the Artillery should be embarked with all possible Expedition, to proceed after them to the general Rendezvous; and that all possible Means should be put in Use for procuring the best Intelligence in the mean Time, how to put this Resolution in Execution with the best Success.

And as General *Wentworth* represented they should want a greater Number of Men, to be landed with them, in order effectually to invest the Town, it was resolved he should be supplied from the Men of War, with all such of the *American* Forces, as he should judge proper to be trusted on Shore; and likewise of the Detachments that were on board of Lord *James Cavendish's* and Col. *Bland's*, whenever the rest of the Forces were landed, and General *Wentworth* should represent it to be necessary.

And your Council of War referred to the Transports being got up to the next general Rendezvous, the taking such further Resolutions as shall be judg'd most adviseable to secure the Success of this Expedition in taking the Town of *Carthagena*, which it has pleas'd God so wonderfully to favour the Success of his Majesty's Forces in hitherto.

Given under our Hands, on Board his Majesty's Ship the *Princess Carolina*, in *Carthagena* Harbour, the 20th Day of March, 1741.

E. Vernon.

Richd. Lestock.

Tho. Wentworth.

Wm. Blackeney.

C. Ogle.

E. Wolfe.

J. Guise.

J. Hemmington.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of a Letter from Vice
Admiral Vernon to the Duke of New-
castle.

Cartbagena-Harbour, April 26, 1741.

MY last to your Grace was of the 1st instant, by Capt. *Laws* in the *Spence*, dispatch'd home express to your Grace; which, I hope, being a good Sailor, came safe and speedily to your Grace's Hands; and send your Grace a Duplicate of it on this Occasion.

On the first of *April*, in the Evening, by the Industry of my gallant Sailors, we made a Channel through their sunken Wrecks, and I got in my Bomb-ketches, and two Frigates to cover them, commanded by Capt. *Rentone* and Capt. *Broderick*; and by Ten next Morning, the 2d, we got the Bomb-ketches to play upon the Town; and the same Evening, having made another Channel through the Wrecks to the Eastward of the Shoal, that lay in the Mouth of the Harbour, I got three of my Fire-Ships through that Channel, for posting them to cover the Descent of the Army at the Place I had fixed on for it, called *Texár de Gracias*, who kept firing upon the Enemy where-ever they see them endeavouring to entrench themselves. On the 3d, got the *Weymouth*, Capt. *Knowles's* Ship, through the Western Channel, and the next Night transported her round the Shoal to the Eastern Part of the Harbour, as her coming round the Shoal oblig'd her to come within point-blank Shot of the Town; and I got the *Cruizer* in at the other Channel the 4th in the Evening, and posted them so round the Eastern Part of the Harbour; and the *Weymouth's*

mouth's Guns scoured the Country all round, and drove about an Hundred of the Enemy from a Breast-work at the upper End of the Harbour; and the *Weymouth's* Guns scoured the Country between that and *St. Lazarus*, by which Means we procured a secure Descent to the Army, who began landing their Grenadiers at *Texar de Gracias* on the 5th at Night, and the rest were landed before the next Day at Noon, without their having one single Musket-Shot fired at them.

I send your Grace inclos'd a Copy of the Letter from General *Wentworth* and Mr. *Guise* to me, of the 2d of *April*; and the Resolutions of our Council of War sent to him of the 3d of *April*, and of two Letters from General *Wentworth* to me of the 4th of *April*, and a joint Letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* of the same Date, being all that pass'd previous to this second Descent: And as a Continuation of Copies of the Letters, and Resolutions of Councils of War, that have mutually pass'd between Mr. *Wentworth* and me, since it is the most authentic Information I can give your Grace in it, from the unexpected Event, I judged it was proper to lay them all before your Grace; and you have accordingly inclos'd Copies of a Letter from General *Wentworth* of the 6th of *April*, and a Letter from me and Sir *Chaloner* to the General of the same Date; and a Letter from General *Wentworth* of the 7th, inclosing the Resolutions of a Council of War and General and Field Officers, of the same Date; and the joint Opinions of me and Sir *Chaloner* sent to them in answer to it of the same Date; and the Resolutions of a Council of War, of General and Field Officers, of the 10th, (which was not deliver'd me till the 11th, when I made the General a Visit in my Return
from

from the *Popa* ;) and on the 12th Mr. *Wentworth* had sent him the Resolutions of our Council of War of that Day ; and then follows the Resolutions of their Council of War of the 13th, and Capt. *Knowles*'s Declaration of his Message, mention'd in the former Resolution, and the joint Answer to their Resolutions from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, of the same Date ; and General *Wentworth*'s Letter to me of the same Date, sent me by Capt. *Watson*, who carried him our Letter, in Consequence of which the General Council of War, of Sea and Land Officers, was held the 14th ; in which your Grace has likewise inclos'd our joint Resolutions of the same Date. And for the particular Transactions of the Army, from their second landing to that Day, I must beg Leave to refer your Grace to General *Wentworth*'s own Accounts of them ; but can with Pleasure add, that the same Disposition of my Ships, that secur'd their safe landing without a Musket-Shot fired at them, was equally favourable to their Retreat and Re-imbarkation, which was likewise securely affected, without their having a single Musket-Shot fired at them from the Enemy, on the 16th at Night, the Time the General desired : And as the Plans, both for the landing and investing the Town, are referred to in the Resolutions and Letters, I have likewise sent your Grace inclosed Copies of them.

And from the Time of their landing, to the Time of their Re-imbarkation, the Officers and Boat's Crews of the Fleet were kept in constant Employment for the landing of the Train of Artillery, and mounting them on their Carriages, and landing all their Stores, as desired, though no Use was made of them ; and likewise carefully

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and

and expeditiously re-imbarking them, when that was resolv'd on.

The *Spanish* Admiral Ship, the *Gallicia*, was got hither on the 8th, and I sent sixty Carpenters on board her, to fit her for a Battery against the Town, for securing our Men, as well as I could, from the general Fire I knew she must be expos'd to ; but it was the 15th at Night, before I could get her compleated to my Mind, and posted as near their Walls as possible, Anchors having been dropt for that Purpose, in as Shoal-Water as the Boats could fleet them ; but the Shoalings from the Town run too far off, for any effectual Service ; but no Ship could be nearer placed, nor no Fire could be more regularly and closely played from a Ship, than was perform'd by the gallant Officers and Sailors on board of her, who stood the Fire from three Bastions, a Half-Moon, and a Ravelin, from Five in the Morning till near Twelve at Noon, and never flagged in their Fire all that Time, nor would not, till the Ship had sunk under them ; but as I saw she could do no material Service against Stone Walls at that Distance, I sent Capt. *Hore* (who commanded) my Orders, to cut and drive before the Sea-Breeze Broadside to them, as soon as the Breeze was strong enough, which was not till near Twelve, when they kept driving Broadside, and continued their Fire till they drove ashore on the Shoal, where she soon filled with Water, having twenty-two Shot between Wind and Water, and would soon have foundered at her Anchors, if I had not order'd her off : And I thought I could not do his Majesty more Honour and Service, than to bestow a Reward of a Pistole a Man to all Petty-Officers and Men dangerously wounded on board her, and half a Pistole a Man

Man to the rest, as a Reward for their resolute and gallant Behaviour ; which, I doubt not, will meet your Grace's Approbation, as a proper Employment of Part of my Contingent-Money, to encourage the Zeal and Resolution of his Majesty's brave Sailors.

I begin to think now, I have tryed Experiments enough of this kind to form some general Maxims upon, which are, in my Judgment, that no Ships should ever be brought to batter against Stone Walls, unless they are first assured they can place their Ships within less than Musket-Shot of them : And as *Castillo Grande* was a Fortrefs my Ships could have come within Pistol-Shot of, I am no longer surpriz'd the Enemy deserted it on our Approach, to save a Garrison, that must otherwise have fallen an easy Sacrifice to us ; and could my Ships have come as near their Town, I would not have thank'd any one for it ; and I am glad I try'd the Experiment with the *Gallicia*, if it were but for the satisfying Gainfayers.

Having receiv'd the Letter from our *English* Prisoners, of their hard Treatment in *Cartagena* Goal, I thought it my Duty to endeavour to procure their Release, by proposing an Exchange of Prisoners ; and send your Grace inclos'd a Copy of my first Letter to the Vice-Roy, sent with a Flag of Truce, by Capt. *Rentone*, being of the 17th instant ; and his Excellency's Answer of the 18th, and my second Letter to the Vice-Roy of the 19th, with his Answer to it of the same Date, who, together with it, sent me off the *Strafford's* Men, as was promised in his Letter, they being brought to Town after he had wrote his Letter.

Our Shells damaged many of their Houses and some of their Churches, there being none thrown into the Town but were from the Bomb-ketches, which were kept playing as long as we had any, and done sparingly, to make them last the longer: And on *Monday* the 13th at Night, I find by the Prisoners, we had like to have had a lucky Incident from one of our Carcasses falling into the great Church where the principal Magazine for their Powder was, and set Fire to the Timber and Plank that covered it; but on ringing the Alarm-Bell, the whole Town went to Work, and threw Sand upon it, and stifled the Fire, which once more broke out a-new, but was effectually extinguish'd afterwards; and the Houses were pretty well shatter'd by the Cannonading from the *Gallicia*, though she was not near enough to do the Walls any Harm; and I had order'd them only to try at dismounting their Guns, for their over Shot going into the Town.

And my Officers and Men have been employ'd in getting out the Masts from some of the sunken *Spanish* Ships, which we have happily succeeded in, so as to have supplied with good low Masts all those who had them shatter'd and render'd unserviceable in the Cannonading *Bocha Gbica* Castle; and have got at Anchors and some Cables out of them, to repair the Loss of many lost in the wild Road we had without; so that by these seasonable Helps, I shall be enabled to have all the Damages pretty well repaired, and my Ships in good secure Condition for proceeding to Sea with again.

I send your Grace further inclos'd Copies of General *Wentworth's* last Letters to me of the 15th instant, and my Answer to it of the same Date; and of my third Letter to the Vice-Roy
of

of *Santa Fe* of the 21st, and his Answer to it of the 22d.

And now Copies of the Resolutions of our two last Councils of War, of the 23d and 24th instant, which being for returning to *Jamaica*, on account of the general Sickness in the Army, there remains nothing more for me to add, than I hope it will appear that I have neglected nothing in my Power for securing the Success of this Expedition, and pushing it on with all possible Vigour, having, I am sure, nothing more at Heart, than faithfully and diligently to discharge my Duty in the vigorous Execution of all our Royal Master's Orders and Instructions.

I have mentioned, in many of my Letters to your Grace, my Apprehensions that Sickness, from the Intemperateness of the Climate, was most to be apprehended; and that the Time most was to be expected from, was the first six Weeks. I hope a little Change of Air, and some Refreshments, may recover the Army to be in Condition for further Action; and shall be always ready to proceed with them upon it, whenever future Councils of War may judge proper.

By the Industry of my Engineer, Capt. *Knowles*, and our Sailors, the entire Demolition of *Castillo Grande* will be completed the 25th instant, which has taken us the more Time from the great Thickness of the Walls and Strength of the Cement, proving as difficult a Jobb as the Iron Fort at *Porto Bello*; but it is effectually demolished at last, and the fifty-nine Pieces of Ordnance in it render'd unserviceable, by spiking up and knocking off their Trunnions, which, being of *Bilboa* Iron, was a difficult Work too; but we found out a Way for making them brittle, by heating them and then quenching them suddenly with cold Water,

ter, many of them hammering out like Bar Iron before that. My Sub-Engineer, Capt. *Boscawen*, has the Care of the same Work at *Bocha Chica*, and I hear proceeds in it very successfully : So that I may assure your Grace, I shall leave the Enemy's Forts entirely demolished ; and their Pride pretty well humbled, by the entire Destruction of all their Shipping, as well as their Castles for the Security of their Harbour.

As it will take up some Time to get so large a Fleet into the Sea, thro' so narrow a Channel, I cannot fix the certain Day we shall leave this Harbour ; but we shall be beginning to get them out on *Monday* the 27th, and I will take care it shall be proceeded in with all possible Expedition.

It was Yesterday Afternoon before we could compleat the entire Demolition of *Castillo Grande*, which Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I went and viewed in the Evening, and were both well satisfied. Our Engineer Capt. *Knowles*, seconded by the Industry of our Seamen, had effectually destroy'd it, and I could not think of moving from it, till I had seen it done, but have dispatch'd all the Transports and Store-ships before me, and shall be following them myself this Evening, and hope to make a Beginning To-morrow in getting our Transports to Sea, having appointed a Convoy to those that can be got out the first Day ; and I hope, by this Day Seven-night, we may be all got out.

And I shall detatch five Sail to cruize to windward of *St. Martha*, as I believe them much streighten'd for Provisions, and shall endeavour to continue them so, and intercept any Thing coming to them.

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The *Cruizer*, Capt. *Wimbleton*, shall be rowed out to Sea to-day, if the Wind does not favour his going out, and will, I hope, speedily bring these Dispatches to your Grace's Hands, he having my Orders not to permit any Letters getting from his Sloop, till he has deliver'd my Letters to your Grace, and those from General *Wentworth*.

C O P Y of a Representation from the Commander in Chief and the Major-General of the Land-Forces, to Vice-Admiral Vernon, April 2, 1741.

S I R,

WE the underwritten, the Commander in Chief and Major-General of the Land Forces, having taken into Consideration the Number of Troops remaining on Board the Transports, deem them to be insufficient for the Attempt on *Carthagena*; we therefore desire, that all such of the Marines which remain of the six Hundred put on Board his Majesty's Ships at *Spithead*, the Remainder of Lord *James Cavendish's* and Colonel *Bland's* Regiments, and a Detachment of fifteen Hundred Men, under proper Officers, from the *American* Regiments, commanded by Colonel *Gooch*, be held in Readiness to join the Troops now on Board the Transports, on their Landing; which we judge shou'd be done with all possible Expedition, that the Enemy may have no Time to raise new Works,

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so as to render the Attack on the City more difficult.

T. Wentworth.

On Board the *Dorsetshire*.

J. Guise.

Transport, April 2, 1741.

To Edward Vernon, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in the West Indies.

COPY of a Resolution of a Council of War, held on Board the Princess Carolina, in Carthagena-Harbour, April 3, 1741.

MR. Vernon having communicated to us a Representation left with him this Morning by General *Wentworth*, sign'd by himself and General *Guise*;

Your Council of War immediately took the same into Consideration, and thought it our Duty to remind the General, that what he now desired had already been granted, by the Resolution of our General Council of War of the 30th of *March* last, and to acquaint him that proper Orders had been issued, and Returns made to them, for having those Troops in Readiness to land after them, and join them whenever they were ready and desirous to have them landed; and that since our last General Council of War, great Advantages had been gained from the Enemy, by his Majesty's Sea-Forces, having since that got into Possession of *Castillo Grande*, and put a Garrison in it, under the Command of
Capt.

Capt. Knowles, and being likewise Masters of the opposite little Fort of *Manzinilla*, and having by the indefatigable Labour and Industry of our Seamen made a Channel through their sunken Ships, and got through two Sixth-Rates, and *Capt. Knowles's* Ship the *Weymouth*, for covering the Bombs, and got in the Bomb-ketches to play upon the Town, by which many of the Inhabitants have been seen to retire out of the Town; and have likewise got in three Fire-ships already, and more are warping in through another Channel made through the Wrecks for warping them up to Eastward, to secure a safe Descent for the Army within a League of the Town, which we think every Thing will be ready for To-morrow Morning.

And as by the Report of Deserters, there is not said to be above a Thousand or twelve Hundred regular Forces for garrisoning the Town of *Carthagena* and for *St. Lazaro*, and that the Seamen of the sunken Ships are not deemed above a Thousand more, and a Mention of fifteen Hundred *Indians* and *Blacks* besides, as a Militia brought in from the Country, judg'd of no Service, all a very insufficient Garrison, in our Apprehensions, for defending so large a Town, which can spare few Troops out of it to oppose a Descent that will be made under the Command of the Cannon of our Frigates and Fire-ships.

We are far from thinking such a Number as five Thousand, to be absolutely necessary for carrying on this Siege, (tho' we have already consented to granting all that has been desir'd) and think a much less Number might be sufficient.

And that every Thing being prepared for a Descent, we think it would be of Consequence for his Majesty's Service, to have the Descent made

To-morrow, with such of the Troops as are already got up, which, we apprehend, to be sufficient for making good a Landing; and we entirely agree with the Generals, that it ought to be done with all possible Expedition, that the Enemy may have no Time to raise new Works, so as to render the Attack on the City more difficult, and are hourly ready to give the Generals all possible Assistance in it.

And we further think it for his Majesty's Service to direct a Copy of these our unanimous Resolutions, immediately to be sent to General *Wentworth*.

Given under our Hands on board his Majesty's Ship, the *Princess Carolina* in *Carthagea-Harbour*, the 3d of *April*, 1741.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

R. Lestock.

COPY of a LETTER from Major-General *Wentworth*, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Land-Forces employed on the present Expedition, to *Edward Vernon, Esq;* Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West-Indies.

Dorsetshire-Transport, April 4th, 1741.

S I R,

WE have just now ended our Council of War, the Result of which is to land as soon as practicable; which cannot be before very early To-morrow Morning, when we are

are in Hopes to be able to put fourteen Hundred Men at once on Shore, under the Command of Brigadier Blakeney.

Mr. Wallace, the Bearer, will lay before you the Names of the Transports, where the Troops will be embark'd, and the Signals on Board each Ship, that your Boats may receive them at the Hour appointed.

We depend upon the rest of the Forces being in a Readiness to sustain us, as soon as shall be practicable; the Council of War being unanimously of Opinion, that five Thousand Men will be no more than necessary to push on the Attack with Vigour. I am, with great Friendship and Esteem, Sir, Yours, &c.

Thomas Wentworth.

COPY of a LETTER from Edward Vernon, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West-Indies, and Sir Chaloner Ogle, Knt. Rear-Admiral of the Blue, to Major-General Wentworth, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Land-Forces employ'd in the present Expedition.

Princess Carolina, in Carthagena-Harbour, April 4,
1741.

SIR,

I Have received yours by Mr. Wallace, between Twelve and One this Day, which gave me, and Sir Chaloner Ogle who was with me, great Pleasure, to find that you had

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determin'd

determin'd on landing To-morrow Morning by Break of Day, as being fully persuaded all Delays are greatly prejudicial to the Success of this Expedition, as we have not only the approaching Rains to fear, as the most fatal Enemy, but are thereby giving the Enemy Time to be raising Works to obstruct your Progress.

Mr. *Wallace* told us, it was your Desire, the Boats of the Fleet should be on Board the Transports the Troops were to be landed from, by two o' Clock To-morrow Morning, and we will take care the Boats of each of our Divisions shall be each divided, under the Care of two Captains from each Division, to direct the careful Embarkations of the Troops, from the six Ships he desired they might be fetch'd from.

And I have this Evening given Orders to Capt. *Knowles* of the *Weymouth*, who with the three Fire-ships and *Cruizer* under his Orders, is posted to cover the Descent, to make all necessary Observations for their Service, and to fire upon the Enemy whenever he may observe them to be at Work, and think it will be best for the Boats to rendezvous on Board him, and the Fire-ships before Day-light To-morrow Morning, who will best be able to give them all necessary Information for their making a secure Descent by Break of Day, which we have not the least Doubt in us, can be done with great Security, even with a much less Number than you propose to land with of fourteen Hundred.

And if any more of your Troops are ready, and you desirous they should be immediately brought ashore to you, our Officers that command at making the Descent, will, at your Desire, go immediately and fetch such further Numbers ashore as you shall desire.

We

We think, if you push with Vigour, you cannot fail of Success, which we heartily wish you, for the Service of our Royal Master, and your own Honour; and we are, with great Fidelity and Esteem,

Sir, Yours, &c,

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

**COPY of another LETTER from
Major-General Wentworth to Vice-Admiral Vernon.**

Dorsetshire-Transport, April 4, 1741.

SIR,

I Am fully persuaded, that all Delays are dangerous, both from the approaching rainy Season, and that the Enemy may have no Time to fortify themselves; and shall leave nothing in my Power undone, to finish the Work as soon as may be.

The Service will require, that the Remainder of the Troops be landed as soon as shall be possible, not only those that were ashore at *Terra Bamba*, but the fifteen Hundred *Americans*, the Remainder of Lord *James Cavendish's* and Col. *Bland's* Regiments, and what remained of the six Hundred Marines put on Board at *Spithead*, without which Reinforcement, the Council of War, (which I have already mention'd) do not think
it

it adviseable to advance against the Enemy. I
am, with great Friendship and Esteem,

Sir, Your most faithful,

And obedient Servant,

Thomas Wentworth.

COPY of a LETTER from Major-
General Wentworth, to Vice-Admiral Ver-
non. La Quinta, April 6, 1741.

*From the Head Quarters at the Quinta, 6th of
April, 1741.*

S I R,

I Must beg the Favour of your Assistance, in
landing the Pickets and Fascines; the Mer-
chantmen's Boats being all employ'd in
bringing on Shore the Tents.

I shall omit no Measures to push the Enemy,
that this Business may be brought to a speedy
Conclusion; could a large Man of War be brought
near enough to fire at *St. Lazarus*, and if some
Shells were thrown amongst their Guards, which
are posted under the Hill in the Road, I am apt
to believe they would be much discompos'd.

Part of the *Americans* are join'd us; you will
be pleas'd to order that those from Mr. *Lestock's*
Squadron be landed by the first Opportunity.

I am, &c.

Thomas Wentworth.

To Admiral Vernon.

COPY

COPY of a LETTER from Edward Vernon, Esq; *Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West-Indies, and Sir Chaloner Ogle, Rear Admiral of the Blue, to Major General Wentworth, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Land-Forces, employ'd on the present Expedition.*

Princess Carolina, in Carthagena-Harbour, 6th of April, 1741.

S I R,

WE have sent you this Morning the Soldiers of all Denominations, from our two Divisions, as you desir'd, and you will have those from Mr. Lestock's To-morrow; which, altogether, are very near fifteen Hundred Men; and, according to the Accounts we have, your Number, with the *Blacks*, will be very near six Thousand; which, being more than even the Number you thought sufficient, we cannot, but in regard to the Interest of our Royal Master, and Friendship to you, report what we have often mention'd to you, that the most fatal Enemy to be apprehended, is from Delay, exposing your Troops to the approaching Rains.

And as every Day's Experience has shewn the *Spaniards* are an Enemy that cannot stand being vigorously push'd, we cannot but advise you against slow Proceedings, as what may prove of greatest Detriment to your Forces; it being plain, the Enemy are infinitely better provided with Engineers than you, and will have the Advantage of you in every thing depending on carrying on
Works

Works of that Kind, and a vigorous Push will, in our Apprehensions, be a greater Saving to your Men, and so intimidate the Enemy, as speedily to bring Matters to a short Issue.

The Gentleman who prepar'd you the last Plan for your advancing to where you are now, having drawn out another for your entirely investing the Town, and cutting off all their Communication with the Country, we have thought it for his Majesty's Service to send it you enclosed, and cannot but give it as our Advice to you, that no Time should be lost in entirely cutting off their Communication, as a Matter of the greatest Consequence for the securing the Success of this Expedition.

And as we have heard the Enemy are framing Lies to spirit up their People, by giving it out that they had hung out a white Flag at *Bocha Chica* Castle, but that we would not admit any Capitulation; we are of Opinion, as soon as ever you have entirely invested the Town, it might not be amiss to send them a Summons to surrender, upon the Promise of good Terms, on their immediate surrendring; and Assurance of no Quarter, if they obliged us to take it by Storm; a Place they cannot but be sensible, they are in no Condition to defend; and that this would be best done by the Bearer, or others, who have resided there, and can speak *Spanish*.

We are, with great Friendship and Esteem, &c.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

P. S.

P. S. The Pickets and Fascines shall be forwarded to you, as you desire ; but we hope you will be Masters of *St. Lazarus* without them To-morrow ; and the Map sent you by Capt. M^r Pberfon will explain to you, how you may easily this Night surprize and get upon the Back of the fascine Battery they are erecting at the Foot of the Hill ; which being of Fullers Earth, may be easily undermin'd, when you are got to the Foot of it.

P L A N *how to invest the Town of Carthagena, towards the Boguilla.*

THE large Lake, which lies within two hundred Paces of the *Quinta*, is, generally speaking, shallow, especially at this Time of the Year ; about two Feet deep in most Places, and the deepest Part is not above four or five. There are three little Islands within Sight of the *Quinta*, where some Fishermen live, and keep their Canoes ; but in every Creek and Corner of the whole Lake, in Time of Peace, (and I suppose now) Canoes are to be met with. This Lake extends as far as the narrow Neck of Land which leads from *St. Catherine's Gate* to *Punta Canoe* ; and when you are about a Mile and a Half from the Town, the Neck of Land betwixt the Sea and the Lake is not above twenty Paces over, and continues so, till you arrive at the *Boguilla*, sometimes a little more, sometimes a little less. About half way, or less, betwixt the *Quinta* and Neck of Land, is a little Gut on the Left Hand, called *El conia de Juan Ingola*,

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just

just broad enough for a Canoe to pass, but generally so shallow, that they're oblig'd to unload the Canoes, to get them over the Shallows; so that the Enemy can make no Use of this Pass.

When you are Masters of the Lake, this Gut runs into the small Lake, which comes up within twenty Paces of St. Catherine's Gate, goes round the Town and communicates with the Bay: The *Boguilla*, which is a League from the Town, and a large League from the *Quinta* by the Lake, is a Gut by which the Sea enters into the Lake; it sometimes is quite dry, but that rarely happens. This seems the properest Place for a Settlement, for the easy Communication with the *Quinta* by Water. There is always a Serjeant's Guard there in Time of Peace: When the City was bombarded last Year, I was told there were some Works rais'd, and small Cannon mounted; and the Guard was augmented to an hundred Men, partly Militia, partly Soldiers. The Prisoners and Deserters are not certain in what Condition their Works are, if there are no new ones made, the old ones are towards the Sea. When you are within Musket-Shot of the *Boguilla*, the Lake is very shallow, but the Bottom is all good Sand; in most Parts it is Mud, you may go over either with Paddles or Poles.

COPY of Letter from Major General Wentworth, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Land Forces employed on the present Expedition, to E. Vernon, Esq; Vice Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West-Indies.

S I R,

I Have here inclosed to you the Opinion of our Council of War; where you will find, that we look upon the Attack of Fort *St. Lazarus* without a Breach, to be impracticable; and that we shall proceed to raise a Battery with all possible Expedition, when the large Cannon shall be landed.

The *Gallicia's* being brought to batter at the same Time, and the Bombs to play into it, would surely have a good Effect; for I am inform'd, that their Magazine of Powder is only cover'd by red Tiles, (which appear above the Top) and by Planks.

I have endeavour'd to cut off the Communication by the Neck of Land upon the Sea; but find, that any Guard we send thither, will be entirely in the Enemy's Power, it being at too great a Distance to be sustain'd, besides that we have no Boats to convoy them thither.

I mention'd to Capt. *Knowles*, that a Ship lying near the Shore might answer the same End; at least, if it be found necessary to throw up a Breast-work upon the narrow Neck of Land; Soldiers to be there posted, may be cover'd by the Man of War. That Communication once cut off, I am entirely of Opinion with you, that

a Summons should be sent to the Vice-Roy, who perhaps might accept of reasonable Terms, rather than come to Extremities.

The Inclosed was brought me by the Defenter, whom I now send on board; my Secretary undertook to decypher it, and I think has succeeded.

I am, &c.

Thomas Wentworth.

*At the Head Quarters at
La Quinta, April 7th,
1741.*

At the Head-Quarters at La Quinta, April 7th, 1741.

THE Council of War having taken into Consideration the Report of Mr. *Armstrong*, the chief Engineer, and likewise Intelligence receiv'd from Prisoners, it appears to the said Council of War, that the Walls of the Castle of *St. Lazare* cannot be less than twenty-five Feet in Height, which is equal to the Length of their longest Ladders; that there is, besides, a Ditch with Water, and very muddy at the Bottom, supposed to be about fifteen Feet in Breadth, and about six Feet in Depth: We therefore, for these Reasons, deem it impracticable to scale the Walls; and do resolve, with all possible Dispatch, to raise a Battery, in order to make a Breach.

The Council of War are farther of Opinion, that if the Castle was at the same Time bombarded from the Fleet, and a large Ship brought to batter, it might greatly facilitate the Success.

Which

Which Resolution, the Council of War desire their Resident to communicate to Admiral Vernon, by the first Opportunity.

Tho. Wentworth.

Wm. Blackeney.

E. Wolfe.

Wm. Robinson.

A. Lowther.

J. Wynyard.

L. D. Moreton.

John Grant.

To the Honourable Edward Vernon, Esq; Vice Admiral of his Britannick Majesty's Squadron of the Blue.

May it please your Honour,

WE loyal Subjects of Great Britain, and Prisoners under the Tyranny of *Don Blas de Lezo*, chief Admiral to his Catholick Majesty, humbly by the Hand of the Bearer, a *Turk* Prisoner, presume to acquaint you the Manner and Circumstance of this Town, as far as we are able at present. The Town doth contain six hundred Men in total, and Hourly the Inhabitants, Soldiers, and Sailors elope, as Opportunity offers; what through Fear and Hunger, Fatigue and hard Usage, they daily wish the *English* to enter. Many there be of those of other Nations, that upon the Attack leave their Arms, and shelter under the *English* Banner. The Vice-King would have deliver'd up the Town long since, but to preserve his Honour, that he might

might not be charged with Cowardice. We humbly beg you will be cautious of the Mines in the Castle on the Hill, and the Intrenchments about the Town, for they promise much Ill: There is not half the Difficulty, as doth appear to you; for in six hundred Men, not four of them shall be equipped with Fire-Arms. We humbly pray God Almighty for your Triumph over your Enemies, and a Releasement to ourselves.

COPY of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Vernon, &c. and Sir Chaloner Ogle, Knt. to Major-General Wentworth.

Princess Carolina, Carthagena-Harbour, 7th of April, 1741.

S I R,

BY your Adjutant this Afternoon, I had brought me your Letter of this Day, inclosing the Resolution of a Council of War; which I immediately took into Consideration, with Sir Chaloner Ogle, Mr. Lestock being posted at too great a Distance to be summoned; and in Justification to the Advice we gave you, we must remark to you, that Mr. Pointy, who seemed to dread the fatal Consequences of Delay in these intemperate Climates, as well as we, took the Resolution of Assaulting without a Breach; and lodging in the Foot of the Fort, and calling for his Scaling-Ladders, happily succeeded in his Attempt; and had the Enemy been pushed to the Walls the first Day, when they so scandalously fled before you, after an Opportunity

portunity of attacking you at so much Advantage, on your Grenadiers coming out of the Defile in marching up to your present Camp we imagine your Arms might have been crowned with as glorious a Success. But dread the Consequence of Delays, and think you might safely have lodged yourselves under the Foot of such high Walls as you mention; and as we took Notice of the Hill being Fullers Earth, think it might easily have been mined, and a Breach soon made by it, if the Enemy had stood to it, which, by their scandalous Behaviour hitherto, we think they would not.

As to what you mention of one of the King's Ships being brought to batter the Fort of *St. Lazarus*, it cannot but give us the greatest Surprise what you should mean by it; who know the *Weymouth* was posted where she is now with other Ships to cover the landing of your Army, which was done with the greatest Security to them. The Enemy having by the Fire of our Ships been driven from all their Intrenchments, so far as to give your Army a secure Landing, without having so much as a Musquet Shot fired at them, and the continuing posted within Pistol Shot of the Shore, has kept securing the Country, to secure your Camp from any Attack from the Enemy ever since; and with the least Observation, every one cannot but be sensible, no Ships can be brought to do you more Service in the Attack of *St. Lazarus* than she has already done; and we do believe you cannot but recollect what Captain *Knowles* mention'd to you, that he thought the nearest Place you could erect a Bomb-Battery against *St. Lazarus*, would be on the Shore within a Pistol-Shot of his Ship, where it
may

may soon be done if you send your Engineers to view it, and they approve it.

And if your Council of War continue of Opinion for raising Batteries to make a Breach against so paltry a Fort as *St. Lazarus*, let your Engineers compleat their Battery, which is the first Step, and we will answer for it they shall never wait a Minute for the Cannon.

A Ship and a Sloop are ordered to go off the *Boguilla* as you desire, but the Shore running flat off there, we apprehend the Ship cannot get within Gun-Shot of the Shore, but they will do all that can be done that way; and we cannot but think you have Troops enough to intrench a Number of them there, which would effectually cut off all their Communication that Way, which is all that is wanting entirely to invest them.

The Mortars from the Ketches have been playing upon *St. Lazarus* as well as the Town, which we could very plainly perceive and shall continue to do so.

And as we think it of Importance to push for a Breach and getting into *Carthagena* with all possible Expedition, we have not press'd with so much Diligence the getting the *Spanish* Admiral's Ship up here, in order to be idle Spectators, but shall endeavour to encourage and forward the active Zeal of his Majesty's brave Sailors, to execute our Royal Master's Orders with Vigour and Resolution. We are, &c.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

COPY

**COPY of a Resolution of a Council of
War of Land-Officers, held at La Quinta,
the 10th of April, 1741.**

WE the under-written Land-Officers, being assembled in a Council of War, to take the present State of our Affairs into Consideration, and having duly weighed what Numbers of Men are necessary for the ordinary Guards of our Camp, do find that our remaining Force is not sufficient for that Purpose, much less for erecting or guarding any Batteries which may have been proposed; we therefore think it necessary to represent to Vice-Admiral *Vernon*, that if he cannot by his Sailors, not only fire but guard, the said Batteries, the Troops under our Command are in no wise capable of undertaking it; and are of Opinion, it were for the King's Service to desist from the Enterprize as impracticable, and to put the Remainder of the Troops on Board.

At the Head Quar-
ters at *La Quinta*,
April 10th, 1741.

T. Wentworth.

J. Guise.

W. Blackeney.

E. Wolfe.

W. Robinson.

A. Lowther.

J. Winyard.

L. D. Mereton.

L COPY

C O P Y of a Resolution of a Council of War, held on Board his Majesty's Ship the Princess Carolina, in Carthagera-Harbour. April 12th, 1741.

MR. *Vernon* having communicated to us the Representation and Opinion of a General Council of War of Land-Officers, dated the 10th Instant, and deliver'd him Yesterday, inclosed by General *Wentworth*,

We the under-written Principal Officers of his Majesty's Fleet, being assembled (as soon as Mr. *Lestock* could be summoned to attend the Council of War, from *Bocha Chica*, where he was posted with his Squadron) have taken the same into mature Deliberation.

And all the Generals and principal Officers of the Army, who are the proper Judges of the Military Operations of the Army, having unanimously agreed in the said Representation, and declared their Opinion, that their remaining Forces are not sufficient for the ordinary Guards of their Camp, much less for guarding any Batteries that may have been proposed; and having likewise Information, that their Engineers, or pretended Engineers, have declared that they do not know where to erect a Battery against *St. Lazarus*, and the said Generals and principal Officers concluding in giving their Opinion, that it will be for the King's Service, to desist from the Enterprize as impracticable, and to put the Remainder of the Troops on Board.

And your Council of War further observing, that the Town is not yet entirely invested by Land, tho' that was early recommended to the General in a Joint-Letter from Mr. *Vernon* and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, dated the 6th Instant, and
might,

might, in our Apprehensions, have been easily effected by securing the Entrance from the Lake *de Zeniga*, into the Passage call'd *Juan de Ingola*, so that the Enemy can thereby daily receive Succours as the Ship and Sloop posted, (as was desired) before the *Boguilla*, cannot in any sort prevent that; but in our Apprehensions, lay very easy to have been prevented, by a Detachment of two Hundred Men from the Army, being intrenched at that Entrance, from the Lake, which this Representation deprives us of all hopes of; as the Generals have declared their remaining Forces not sufficient for the ordinary Guards of their Camp.

The Council of War therefore conceive, there is nothing properly for them to deliberate upon; but the safe and honourable Retreat of the Army, from the further Pursuit of this Enterprize, that they have given it as their general Opinion to be impracticable.

And as your Council of War are fully persuaded, the Generals will be of Opinion with them, that there ought to be no Thoughts of Embarking the Troops 'till such Time as the Train of Artillery, that has been demanded and is landed, and now on Shore, as was desired, previously be re-embarked, which as their Engineers do not know how to employ, we think, unless they have changed their Sentiments, should be the first Thing to be re-embarked, and are ready to give all necessary Orders in it whenever the General desires it.

And the better to cover a Retreat from the Enemy, we think the Bomb-Batteries now erected at Land should be kept playing upon *St. Lazarus*, and with the same View, the Council of War has resolved that the *Gallicia* (the late *Spa-*

nish Admiral-Ship) that has been preparing for a Battery, to Cannonade the Town of *Carthagena*, shall now be destin'd to be employed in Cannonading the Fort of *St. Lazarus*, where they cannot propose to themselves an equal Success, from the Flatness of the Shore from that Side, but determine on it, as it may be a good Means for securing a safe Retreat to the Army, by her Fire on any Troops coming from the Town, and hoped, they shall be able to get her in, to batter on *Tuesday* next.

And as we conceive, the Generals will think it proper to draw off their sick and wounded Men first, cannot but recommend to have it done, in the easiest and least discernable Manner from the Enemy; which we conceive to be, by having first some of the Transport-Ships appointed as Hospitals for them, and then to order that the Transport-Boats, which carry daily Provisions for the Army, should take off, in their daily Return empty, such of the Sick and Wounded, as the General should think proper first to order off, for carrying them on Board the said Hospital-Transport-Ships; and that all this should be transacted at the Landing-Place call'd the *Breast-Work*, where a convenient little Bridge is ordered to be immediately made for that Purpose, that the Wharf may be kept entirely clear, for the Re-embarkation of the Artillery, which being to be done in great Boats, and the Channel to that being very narrow, we conceive it to be absolutely necessary, that no Boats should be admitted to come to that Wharf, but those employed on that Service, which would otherwise choak up that Channel, and prevent all Dispatch in that most necessary and honourable Service of a safe Re-embarkation of our Train.

And

And we conceive, now the General will agree with us, that no Time should be lost for the Mining of all the Forts we are now in Possession of, so as to leave the Harbour of *Cartagena* quite open and defenceless, which the Council of War desire the Generals to signify their Sentiments in, that no Time may be lost, in giving all the necessary Orders for it.

And these our unanimous Sentiments and Resolutions, the Council of War desire may be sent to the General To-Day, that no Time may be lost, in setting about the heavy Work of Re-embarking the Train whenever he desires it.

Given under our Hands on Board his Majesty's Ship, the *Princess Carolina*, in *Cartagena-Harbour* the 12th Day of *April*, 1741.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

R. Lestock.

C O P Y of the Resolution of a Council of War of *Land-Officers* of the 13th of April, 1741, and the Answers from *Vice-Admiral Vernon* and *Sir Chaloner Ogle* thereto, with a Letter from *Major-General Wentworth* to *Vice-Admiral Vernon* of the same Date, and the Resolution of a General Council of War, held the 14th of April, 1741.

WE the Generals and principal Officers of the *Land-Forces*, being assembled in a Council of War, have taken into Consideration the Opinion of a Council of War, held
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on Board the *Princess Carolina*, April 12th, by Admiral *Vernon*; and cannot but observe, with the greatest Surprize, that the Query in our Representation to him of the 11th, relating to a Number of Sailors requisite for raising, serving, and guarding the Batteries supposed to be requisite for reducing Fort *St. Lazarus*, should be passed over in Silence; which appears to us the more extraordinary, as his Majesty hath particularly mentioned in his Instructions, that Batteries, if required, should be Mann'd from the Fleet, which being absolutely necessary in our present Circumstances, we presume that Admiral *Vernon* cannot spare the proper Numbers from the Service of his Ships, without whose Assistance, we again repeat, that we deem this Enterprize to be impracticable.

We cannot conceive what is meant by a Charge of Neglect in our not cutting off the Communication of the Enemy with the Country, on the Side of the Lake, a Letter having been writ to Admiral *Vernon* on that Subject, April the 7th; as likewise a Message sent to him by Captain *Knowles*, signifying to him, that a Body of Soldiers should be supplied to intrench themselves upon the narrow Neck of Land lying between the Lake and the Sea, provided they could be victualled and cover'd by Ships of Force sent to lye near them, to which no Answer was given.

Without being so supported, sending out Men to post themselves where they could not be sustain'd from the Camp, would have been sacrificing them to the Enemy, and acting directly contrary to common Prudence, as likewise to the Rules of War.

We are entirely of Opinion, that the Artillery should be embarked, as soon as may be, and
desire

desire that Admiral *Vernon* will be pleased to give proper Directions for that Purpose, excepting the Mortars at the Battery, which we think should be continued on Shore, till near the Time of embarking the Troops.

Proper Measures were taken Yesterday, for sending the Sick and Wounded on Board, great Part of whom we believe to be embarked in the several Transports appointed to receive them.

If the *Gallicia* can be got ready in any reasonable Time, for firing upon the Castle of *St. Lazarus*, when the Troops are embarking, it cannot, we believe, fail of having a good Effect; and if some small Ships were placed near their Shore, to be ready to fire at the same Time upon the Enemy with the Grape-Shot, in case they should attempt to incommode us, may, we are of Opinion, be of great Use.

We think it absolutely necessary, that the Forts should be dismantled before we leave the Harbour, and that the sooner it is performed the better.

A fresh Reason offers for the Embarkation of the Troops as soon as practicable, our Supplies of Water being so near exhausted, that they will scarce last above two Days longer.

At the Head Quarters at *La Quinta*,
April 13th, 1741.

T. Wentworth.

J. Guise.

W. Blackeney.

E. Wolfe.

W. Robinson.

A. Lowther.

J. Winyard.

L. D. Moreton.

A N S W E R

A N S W E R to the foregoing Representation.

General *Wentworth* having by his Aid de Camp sent Mr. *Vernon* inclosed a Paper signed by all the General Officers, he immediately sent for Sir *Cbaloner Ogle*, to communicate the same to him ; and as the Contents seem'd to require a speedy Answer, we the two principal Officers of his Majesty's Fleet resolv'd not to lose so much Time, as sending for Mr. *Lestock* would take up, but to return an immediate Answer.

An Objection is made to no Notice being taken to a Part of their Representation of the 10th instant, That if Admiral *Vernon* cannot by his Sailors not only fire, but guard the said Batteries, the Troops under their Command were in no wise capable of undertaking it.

When the General was on board himself the 10th, he having said the Engineers knew of no proper Place to erect a Battery against *St. Lazarus*, and the General being then told by Mr. *Vernon*, that whenever any Battery was raised, he would supply Men to mount the Guns and ply the Battery ; we cannot conceive, what Answer could have been made to guarding and supplying a Battery, that does not appear to have been intended to be erected ; and how could we conceive it should, when it was declared, they had not Men necessary for the ordinary Guards of their Camp ; and have never said, even in this last Paper, sign'd by them, that any Place is fix'd on for erecting a Battery ; and in this it is only called a Battery supposed to be necessary, though now the Demand is extended to Numbers of Men for raising a Battery, a Science no Seamen can be supposed

supposed to be educated to, or proper to undertake.

But if the General wants to have those Posts secured, recommended for investing the Town, we have no Difficulty to undertake to cut off the Communication by our Seamen, if they will push on a Siege in form, and to supply Seamen to mount the Guns, and fire them, or lend them Men upon a Storm on a Breach, which Sailors are proper for, but cannot be trusted in Encampments.

Capt. Knowles's Account of the Message he was sent with to Mr. *Vernon*, and the Answer he gave to it, and the Orders given to Capt. *Cowper* the 10th instant, to victual the Soldiers on the *Bogwilla* Guard, are a full Answer, that every thing was done as Mr. *Wentworth* had desired in that respect, that Ship and a Sloop now riding off there for that Purpose.

But this Part being only the Preamble, what are we to conclude, when we come to the Declarative Part of your Opinion, That the Artillery should be embarked as soon as may be; and desire that Admiral *Vernon* will be pleased to give proper Directions for that Purpose.

And then add a fresh Reason for the Embarkation of the Troops as soon as practicable, the Supplies of Water being so near exhausted, that they will scarce last above two Days longer.

Such inconsistent Representations cannot but greatly perplex us to give a proper Answer to.

But a Zeal to his Majesty's Service inclines us to do all in our Power to support the Generals in any thing they can reasonably desire of us; but from their Representation, for Fear of not having Time honourably to embark the Artillery, think it necessary to give the Orders they de-

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fire,

fire, for the speedy Embarkation thereof, that there may be Time for it, before their Water is expended.

But the Bearer, Capt. *Watson*, has Directions not to give any Orders in it, if they judge it practicable to carry on the Siege, and will make us any reasonable Demand for what they may want for that Purpose : And therefore, we desire the General will give his verbal Orders to the Bearer, Capt. *Watson*, for proceeding in the Embarkation, or delaying it.

Given under our Hands, on board his Majesty's Ship the *Princess Carolina*, in *Carthage* Harbour, the 13th of *April*, 1741.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

Captain Knowles's Declaration of the Message he receiv'd from General Wentworth, and Admiral Vernon's Answer to it.

ON the 10th of *April* in the Afternoon, Capt. *Knowles* declares he receiv'd a Message from the General, relating to the having the Troops he intended to send to the *Boquilla*, victualled on board the Man of War which was appointed to lay in *Punta-Canoe Bay* ; which Message he put down with a Pencil in his Pocket-Book, and as soon as he went on board Admiral *Vernon*, deliver'd it, and took likewise down the Admiral's Answer ; which was, That he desired his Compliments to the General, and that the Ship should have Orders to victual any
Troops

Troops he would please to send, and Boats should be ready to attend to carry them, whenever the General should think proper; and moreover, that a Canoe should be fitted with Oars, Swivel Guns, &c. proper to send round the Lake on any Enterprize the General should think fit: Which Answer of the Admiral's Capt. Knowles deliver'd the Morning before he went up to *La Papa*, to view the Enemy's Situation, and look out for a Place for erecting a Battery against them.

Charles Knowles.

C O P Y of an Order from Vice Admiral Vernon to Capt. Cowper, Commander of his Majesty's Ship the Dunkirk.

By Edward Vernon, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West-Indies.

W Hereas the *Boguilla* Guard will be placed so far from the Army and Transport Ships, that they cannot conveniently be victualled from thence:

You are hereby required and directed to order your Purser to victual, as you do your Ship's Company, the Guard placed at the *Boguilla*, during the Time of your being station'd there; for which this shall be your Warrant.

Given under my Hand, on board his Majesty's
Ship the *Princess Carolina* in Carthagena
Harbour, this 10th of April 1741.

E. Vernon.

To Capt. Cowper, Commander
of his Majesty's Ship the
Dunkirk.

By Command of the Admiral.

Wm. Pearse.

COPY of a Letter from Major-General
Wentworth, to Vice-Admiral Vernon.

S I R,

AS the present Situation of Affairs requires
that we should come to some speedy Re-
solution, I am desir'd by the General Offi-
cers and Colonels now present, to inform you,
that to bring Matters to a short Issue, they think
a General Council of War, composed of Sea
and Land Officers, should be summon'd To-
morrow, (if you please to appoint the Hour, on
board the *Princess Carolina*, we will attend,)
where every thing may be fairly and candidly
stated, and such Resolutions taken as may be
best for his Majesty's Service.

I am, &c.

At La Quinta, April
the 13th, 1741.

Thomas Wentworth.

At

At a General Council of War, held on Board his Majesty's Ship the Princess Carolina, on Tuesday the 14th of April 1741, at the Request of General Wentworth, and the Generals and Colonels, as mentioned in his Letter of the 13th, from his Camp at La Quinta.

THE Generals having represented to the Council of War, that the remaining Number of Troops in the Camp, are only three Thousand five Hundred and sixty-seven Effectives, this 14th of April, 1741.

That the Place proposed by the Engineers for raising Cannon-Batteries (on which nothing is yet begun) neither promises for effectual Service, nor being completed within a reasonable Time, as they judge a Fortnight to be the least.

That there will be no Water near the Camp, for the Army, after To-morrow.

That the Troops are daily afflicted with falling sick, by great Numbers, which is each Day increasing more than other.

And that they are therefore of Opinion, there is no Prospect of carrying on a Siege against a Town of so great an Extent as *Carthagena*, under such Circumstances, with any Prospect of Success.

The Council of War taking the General's Reasons into mature Deliberation, unanimously agree with the Generals, that, in such Circumstances, it will be most for his Majesty's Service, to desist from the farther Pursuit of this Enterprize.

That the Artillery should be embarked with all possible Expedition.

That

That as soon as the Train is safely shipped of, they should begin embarking the Troops; and that it would be advisable to keep the Bomb-Batteries playing to amuse the Enemy, till the Artillery is embarked, and to have the *Gallicia* got in to cannonade and annoy the Enemy.

And that all the Castles in our Possession ought to be mined and blown up as soon as possible, after the Embarkation of the Troops.

That the Harbour of *Carthagena* might be left an open Harbour, and entirely defenceless.

And as they may daily expect to hear from *England*, and receive fresh Orders from his Majesty, it is thought proper to suspend all further Resolutions till these our Resolutions are put in Execution, when another General Council shall be held, to determine on our future Operations.

Given under our Hands, on board his Majesty's Ship the Princess *Carolina* in *Carthagena-Harbour*, this 14th of *April*, 1741.

E. Vernon.

C. Ogle.

R. Lestock.

Tho. Wentworth.

J. Guise.

Wm. Blackeney.

Wm. Robinson.

J. Hemington.

*An ACCOUNT of the Landing-Places
near the Town of Carthagena, March 29,
1741.*

I Cannot give any particular Account of the Landing Places to the South of *Manzanilla-Castle*, but I believe the nearest is *Cavallos*, where I have often been by Land; it is reputed
three

three short Leagues from *Cartagena*, a pretty good Road at this Time of the Year, but generally narrow, a Horse-Path only till you are within two Miles of the Town, where you come into the Road of the *Texar de Gracia*.

The *Texar de Gracia* lies just within the *Manzanilla*-Castle upon the same Island, and communicates with the Land by a Wooden Bridge; about three Yards over the Landing-Place is close by the House, the Barges of the *Spanish* Men of War (which, I believe, draws more Water than our Twelve-Oar Boats) come up to the Landing-Place without Difficulty. This *Texar* is about a *French* League from the Town; it is a Coach-Road all the Way; the first Mile very narrow, just Room for a Carriage; Woods on each Side: After a Mile going, you come into an Opening both to the Right and Left, for above half a Mile further; the Woods on the Right being about twenty Paces from the beaten Path, and the Bay lyes on the Left, low manglar Bushes intervening, which may be seen over, and grow in shallow Water, which is deeper or shallower as the Tide is in or out; the Difference of the Tide betwixt two and three Foot perpendicularly strait; when you are near to the End of this open Road, the great Road from all the Country inward joins it; and a Hundred Paces further, you come to a narrow Pass, scarce broad enough for two Coaches to pass; on the Left a House and a Brickkiln, called *Cavallos*; the Brick-kilns in this Country are large Buildings, cover'd with Pantiles, where they dry and burn their Bricks; this narrow Pass continues above a Hundred Paces, and then you have another Opening for about three Hundred Paces, and then you have another Opening for
about

about three Hundred Paces more ; in this Opening are two Roads, that to the Left, which is called *Lofanos*, goes to a Brick-kiln and an Orchard ; the Orchard is full of *Cocoa* Trees ; you discover from thence, at a little more than a Quarter of a Mile, the Castle of *St. Lazaro*, or *St. Felipe de Beraxas* ; but the *Cocoas* are so thick, that you cannot be seen from *St. Lazaro* ; in this Orchard is a Brick-house ; the Road to the right Hand is the high Road, in which you have two narrow Passes, of a Hundred Paces each, both at the Foot of the *Popa*, and then you join the private Road by the Brick-kiln and Orchard, and come into an open Plain, where you discover, and are discover'd by *St. Lazaro*, which lies on an Eminence about two Hundred Paces from the outer Gate of *Ximenis* which is called the *Media Luna*, or Half-Moon. About a Hundred and Fifty Paces before you come to the Bottom of the Hill of *St. Lazaro*, there is a Bye-Road on the right Hand, which is cover'd from the Castle indifferently well by Bush-Wood for about a Quarter of a Mile, and then you come into an open Plain, at the End of which, a little more than a Quarter of a Mile from the Castle, is a small Hill, which seems properly situated for making a Battery against the Town and against the Castle : A new Work which appears on the North-Side of the Castle, was, I suppose, made on purpose to prevent any Advantage being made of this rising Ground ; from hence is a good Road, partly open and partly inclosed, to the narrow Neck of Land which leads to *St. Catherine's Gate*, on the Sea-side about Midway you must pass a Water about thirty Paces over, and generally up to the Horse's Girths ; this Neck of Land and the high Road abovemention'd, are the only great Entrances,

Entrances into the City, and the only practis'd Communication betwixt these Roads is under St. *Lazaro*, either the Bye-Way I have described, or betwixt St. *Lazaro* and the Town, which is very open, and into which the Bye-Way enters before you come to the rising Ground before describ'd. I know it is very easy to open a Communication betwixt them on the further Side of the great Lake; the illicit Traders often carry their Goods that Way for the greater Security, but take care to make no beaten Path. Besides, the two Land Gates abovemention'd, there is a little Gate to the Eastward of St. *Catherine's*, which was never open'd in our Time, till the Year 1739, or 40, and then for the Convenience, as I was told, of the Inhabitants on that Side the City, for the more easy carrying out Rubbish, &c. there is no Path from this Gate, I believe, further than to the Lake by St. *Catherine's* Gate.

The next Landing-Place to the *Texar de Gracia*, which is less than half a Mile nearer the City, and in the same Road is *Bosque*; about half a Mile nearer is another called *Alfivia*; this is just at the End of the narrow Part of the Road. There is another Landing-Place half a Mile nearer, which belongs to the *Quinta*, but is somewhat difficult to find, it lying through some strait Channels among the *Mangroves*; it is just opposite to where the great Road joins the Road from the *Texar de Gracia*. *Bosque*, *Alfivia*, *Quinta*, and *Losano* are very fine Cisterns for Water, but at this Time of Year they are generally very low; at *Bosque* is a deep Well, but I know not whether the Water be good: There is another Well under the *Popa* to the Southward, which I know is good.

To cut off all Communication by the great Road to the City, must be by a Line from the

N

Lake

Lake to the Bay, which is about a Quarter of a Mile ; the Road is narrow and mostly through a Wood.

COPY of a LETTER from Edward Vernon, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West-Indies, to his Excellency Don Sebastian de Erlava, Vice-King of Santa Fe.

Most Excellent Sir,

AS I am perswaded it will be a Pleasure to your Excellency to give Relief to such of your Royal Master's Subjects as are Prisoners with us, as it will to me for those of my Royal Master's Subjects that are Prisoners with you, some of which, I have learn'd, have been so for some Time, and not under very humane Treatment ; but that, I am perswaded, is only for Want of your Excellency's being inform'd of it.

I have sent one of my Captains to propose an Exchange of Prisoners to your Excellency. I believe I have a Number sufficient here, to exchange against what your Excellency may have of ours ; but if not, I can soon make the Numbers up from *Jamaica*, and shall not fail to send them, wherever your Excellency desires ; with my best Wishes for your Excellency's Health, I am,

Most Excellent Sir,

Princess Carolina, Carthage-Harbour,
April 17th, 1741.

Your Excellency's, &c.

E. Vernon.

A TRANSLATION of a LETTER from his Excellency Don Sebastian de Erlava, Vice-King of Santa Fe, to Vice-Admiral Vernon.

Most Excellent Sir,

Yesterday I received your Excellency's Favour of the same Date, in which you are pleased to propose to me an Exchange of the Prisoners of the King my Master, with those of his *Britannick* Majesty; I am glad of the Occasion to shew your Excellency my Readiness to comply with your Requests, and at the same Time, to give the respective Subjects the Satisfaction of returning to their own Bodies; but I assure you those who have been Prisoners in this City have wanted for nothing, as Officers and Soldiers can testify; and if they have not been all attended with equal Care, your Excellency may be perswaded any such Neglect never came to my Knowledge.

A List of the Numbers of Prisoners with Distinction of the Sick and Wounded accompanies this; all which shall be sent To-morrow (except such as may receive Prejudice by being moved) in the Manner that shall be agreed upon by the Officers appointed for that Purpose on both Sides; and as to compleating the Number, an Account shall be made on each Side, restoring, *bona fide*, the Prisoners, which should be made to remain; according to the Custom of War, and establish'd Practice of the Armies in *Europe*.

God preserve, &c.

April 18th, 1741.

Sebastian de Erlava.

COPY of another LETTER from Vice-Admiral Vernon, to the Vice-King of Santa Fe.

Most Excellent Sir,

I Was favour'd with your Excellency's Letter Yesterday, expressing, as I expected from your Excellency's humane Disposition, a Pleasure in mutually giving that Relief to the Subjects of our Royal Masters, that the Laws of Arms would permit us.

By Captain *Rentone*, I sent on that Service, I learn'd the three wounded Officers we had Prisoners with you are dead, and the drunken Fool, your Excellency calls a Captain, I believe you will not esteem one, when I acquaint your Excellency, he was only appointed by the Governor of *Jamaica* a temporary Officer, to command Negroes, sent for doing the Labour of the Army, to preserve them, in these intemperate Climates.

The others you have desired are sent, and even a greater Number than your's amount to; and for the Officer you desired, and is sent to *Jamaica*, if you are desirous in having him with you, I shall make no Difficulty in obliging your Excellency in that too, if you desire it, and send him you by some of my Cruizers.

And I have sent you for a Present likewise all the Padres, for by being taken on the Seas, they are by all Sea Cartels, as liable to Imprisonment, 'till Exchange, as any other Person; and as Six of these, the Fathers of *St. Juan de Dios*, are used to attend the Sick of your Army and Fleet, they are in some Sort a Military Order, and that at this Time was of Weight with me, in the detain-
ing

ing them ; but as I shall always have a Pleasure in paying a Respect to Persons, who profess to dedicate their Services to the Almighty, I take a Pleasure in presenting your Excellency with their Liberty. If any of our Wounded are not fit to come now, your Excellency's Assurance to return them, by one of my Cruizers, will be sufficient.

I hear a Mate and three Men belonging to one of my Ships at *Passa-Cavallos* were seized as they were getting Water; considering the Compassion I have shewed to the Country in preserving all their Buildings, I think that ought not to have been practised; I desire they may be returned me without fail, and hope they will not be so imprudent as to make any more such Attempts, for fear of the Consequences : And with my best Wishes for your Excellency's Health, and long Enjoyment of it, I am, &c.

E. Vernon.

Princess Carolina, in Carthage-Harbour, April 19th, 1741.

TRANSLATION of another LETTER from the Vice-King of Santa Fe, to Vice-Admiral Vernon.

Most Excellent Sir,

I Have just received the Favour of your Excellency's Letter of this Date, and I acknowledge myself obliged to your Excellency for the Favour you have done me in sending all the Prisoners, Subjects of the King my Master, including

including those of the religious Order of *St. Juan de Dios*, according to Stipulation.

A Captain who is stationed in the Country advises me, that four Sailors are taken belonging to your Excellency's Squadron; I suppose they are the same, which your Excellency says were taking in Water at *Passa Cavallos*; I shall order them to be restored so soon as they arrive, and shall reprimand those who took them, who, as they are Country People, are incapable of distinguishing what ought to be practised in Matters relating to War.

I return your Excellency my Thanks for, and accept the Offer you make me of sending from *Jamaica* the Officer taken in the Frigate which came from *Porto Bello*; and if at the Time he arrives, there should be any Prisoners here, I shall return them, being desirous on all Occasions, and all Times, to correspond with your Excellency's Politeness, and am glad of the present Opportunity to assure you of my Wishes to serve you.

God preserve you, &c.

April 19th,
1741.

Sebastian de Erlava.

COPY of another LETTER from Vice-Admiral Vernon, to the Vice-King of Santa Fe.

Most Excellent Sir,

I AM favour'd with your Excellency's Letter of the 30th, N. S. and thank your Excellency for the Sailors you sent, and the Orders you have given.

The

The young Cadet being sent me up from *Boccha Chica* last Night, I have sent him your Excellency this Morning, by Captain *Rentone*, and shall have a Pleasure in obliging your Excellency by sending you from *Jamaica*, the Officer taken in the Frigate coming from *Porto Bello*.

I assure your Excellency, I am perswaded, it is both the Inclination of my Royal Master, and all his Subjects, to live well with the *Spanish* Nation; and as I believe it is the mutual Interest of both Nations so to do, I am glad of all Occasions in my Power to contribute to restore that good Understanding that has in many Ages subsisted to the mutual Advantage of both.

With my best Wishes for your Excellency's good Health, and long Enjoyment of it,

I am, &c.

Princess Carolina, in Carthage-
na-Harbour, April
21st, 1741.

E. Vernon.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER
from the Vice-King of Santa Fe to Vice-
Admiral Vernon.

Most Excellent Sir,

BY Captain *Rentone*, who brought the Cadet Prisoner, I received your Favour of Yesterday, and return you repeated Thanks for your generous Behaviour and distinguished Attention, of which you have given so many Proofs.

Some Sea-Officers, Friends of those who were taken in the *Gallicia*, and sent to *London*, have
desired

desired Leave to write to them, and now send the Letters open to Mr. Ord, that he may forward them; they go open, that it may be manifest they are only intended to procure the above-mentioned Prisoners Letters of Exchange; as this will necessarily be of great Relief to them, I make no doubt your Excellency will permit the Execution.

I repeat the great Desires I have to serve your Excellency, &c.

Sebastian de Erlava.

April 22, 1741.

C O P Y of a **L E T T E R** from Major-General Wentworth, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Land-Forces employed on the present Expedition, to Edward Vernon, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West-Indies.

S I R,

AS the Artillery will all be embarked this Evening, excepting one Mortar, which shall come off with the advanced Guard; we propose to get the Troops on Board To-morrow in the Evening, which becomes hourly more necessary, seventy-six having sickened and died since Yesterday besides Officers. I have inclosed a Plan for Embarkation, if you approve of it, or shall make any Alteration, you will be pleased signify to me as soon as may be in a Readiness against the Time.

If you desire any Soldiers with Arms to be put on board the Ships you propose for covering our
Em-

Embarkation, I will, when I shall know the Number required, order them to be in Readiness, when Boats shall come to receive them.

I am, &c.

Tho. Wentworth

At the Head-Quarters at
La Quinta, April 15.
1741.

COPY of a LETTER from Vice-Admiral Vernon, to Major-General Wentworth, &c.

S I R,

I Have just now receiv'd yours by Mr. *Wallop*; and all the Boats of our two Divisions shall be to attend the Embarkation of the Troops at Nine To-morrow Evening, as you desire, which you know can't be embarked at once; and I think the first Detachment to be embarked from where the Cannon was shipped off, should be of no more than three hundred; and they to be immediately put on board the *Weymouth*, and Fire-Ships and Sloops, posted to cover the Embarkation: And as the Channel to that Wharf is very narrow, which may create Confusion by stopping it up, and is within the Enemy's Fire, I think no more should be shipped off from thence, as it can be done with greater Safety, and much more Expedition, from the Breast-Works, where I have had a very good Bridge made for the Purpose, just over-against where the *Cruizer* lies; and when those you design shipping there are carry'd off, the Boats shall

shall return to the Place you first landed at, for taking of the rest; and all your Transport-Boats may come to that Place the first of the Night.

But as to finding out particular Ships to put them on board in the Night, that might create Confusion and Delay; so that if they be put on board the nearest Ships for the present, they may be shifted to their proper Ships the next Day, who for each Regiment, should be distinguish'd by their Colours, which Mr. *Wallace* can easily give proper Orders in, and advise me of what he has done.

I send you inclosed the Examinations of the two Countrymen you sent off this Morning, and am Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

E. Vernon.

Princess Carolina, in Carthagena-Harbour, 15th of April 1741.

At a General Council of War, held on Board his Majesty's Ship the Princess Carolina, in the Harbour of Carthagena, the 23d of April, 1741.

IT was taken into Consideration, what could be further done in Pursuance of his Majesty's Instructions of the 10th of July 1740. And Mr. *Vernon* suggesting to the Council of War, that *Panama* was the most desirable Attempt, if the Army were judged by the Generals to be in a Condition to attempt it, and the approaching

proaching rainy Seasons were not too near, as the Success of such an Attempt would entirely disable the Enemy from holding their Fair, and throw all their Affairs into the utmost Confusion.

What he thought he could answer for was, that by Means of the Sinu-Hulks taken here, he apprehended the Troops could be conveyed up the *Chagre*, as far as *Gorgona*, or *Cruzes*, from whence it was said, they would have seven *Spanish* Leagues to *Panama*, and that a Communication by the River *Chagre* might be maintained by small Sloops, and the Sinu-Hulks with *Gorgona* or *Cruzes*.

Upon which the Generals desiring Time to consider of the said Proposal by a Council of General Officers, and that their Council might be again summoned To-morrow, to form further Resolutions upon, it was accordingly to adjourn coming to a final Resolution 'till To-morrow.

E. Vernon.

Tho. Wentworth.

C. Ogle.

J. Guise

At a Council of War held on Board his Majesty's Ship the Princess Carolina, in Carthagena-Harbour, on Friday the 24th of April, 1741.

THE Generals having from our last Council of War Yesterday, taken Time to consider the State of their Forces, and whether they were in any Condition for proceeding on the Enterprize propos'd, they reported,

That

That they find many of their principal Officers daily falling ill, and such a general Sickness spreading through all their Troops, that they cannot think the Army in any Condition for undertaking any Enterprize till they shall be put into Quarters of Refreshment.

Upon which the Council of War came to an unanimous Resolution for proceeding with the Fleet and Transports to *Jamaica* with all possible Expedition, as soon as the destroying the Enemy's Forts shall be effected; and that as such a Number of Transports will require Time to get them to Sea, it will be adviseable to dispatch them under several Convoys, as fast as they can be got to Sea.



E. Vernon.

Tho. Wentworth,

C. Ogle.

J. Guise.

F I N I S.



